

## COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

### 23 Gospel of John (Part 23)

#### INTRODUCTION | The Sabbath Debate

---

Today's Scripture zooms in on a debate regarding Jesus. The blind man healed of his blindness grows in his faith through this experience. Though we may want to avoid trials of any kind, it is true that the trials help us develop matured characteristics. First, we cannot avoid trials of faith and perseverance. Second, trials we encounter help us mature both in our faith and character. Third, this is the process in which we continue to experience the growth.

#### SCRIPTURE | John 9:13 – 38 (ESV)

---

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." <sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." <sup>18</sup> The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup> and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup> His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. <sup>21</sup> But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup> (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." <sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup> He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup> They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup> He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup> And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup> The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup> They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. <sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup> He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." <sup>38</sup> He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him

#### QUESTIONS |

---

1: (v.15-17) What kind of trials did the man healed of his blindness encounter? Have you ever gone through the similar experience?

## COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

2: (v.18-22) The man's parents were also questioned by the Jews. How did they respond? What kind of our tendencies and dispositions does their response reveal?

3: What kind of attitude does the man healed of his blindness show while Jews are investigating the Sabbath case on Jesus? What is the secret of responding in a right manner when we are faced with trials in life? Let's answer reflecting the way he responded. (Ref. Hebrews 4:15-16)

4: The man healed of his blindness tells his story candidly. We should also prepare a short (10-15 minute long) testimony that focuses on how we met Jesus, how we believed in Him, how our hearts and lives were changed, and how we are currently walking with Him.

5: (v.12, 17, 35-38) The man healed of his blindness experienced the growth of his faith in Jesus through the Sabbath debate. What kind of phases did he go through for this growth? (Ref. Romans 5:3-5)

6: Why do you think this man grew in faith in the midst of a trial of Sabbath debate? How should we approach the trials coming our ways?

### REFERENCES |

---

#### Hebrews 4:15-16

<sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

#### Romans 5:3-5

<sup>3</sup> More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

### UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

---

Lunch Time Meeting – Kasumigaseki (1) Marunouchi (8), Otemachi (2,9)

GraceCity

Gospel

(6)

Yukata Party (11 @ The Tokyo Towers Sky Lounge in Kachidoki)

Bento Project (4)

Community Group Leaders' Training (4, 11)