



## [Slide #1: How I See...Changes Everything]

### [Slide #2: I Spy]

#### **Introduction:**

As a child, my sisters and I often played games to pass the time while our family traveled long distances. One of those games was “I Spy.”

- This game is played by one person setting in their mind one thing that everyone in the group can see.
- The person then says something like, “I spy something blue,” and everyone begins taking turns guessing what it is the person has in mind.
- If no one guesses correctly, the person adds another fact about the object like, “I spy something round.”
- Again people take turns guessing.
- This back and forth goes on until someone finally correctly guesses what the object is.
- The person who guesses correctly becomes the person to “spy” something while all the others guess.

Let’s take a few minutes right now to play, “I Spy.”

[Play the game.]

Isn’t it interesting that we can all see the same thing, but it seems to take some of us longer to catch on to what we’re *supposed* to be seeing. We can be looking right at something and not even really notice it.

That reminds me of a time when Jesus was walking through the city of Jerusalem and He “spied” something that others overlooked.

The truth is, He actually saw *someone* whom others overlooked. We read the account of what happened in John Chapter 9.

### [Slide #3: John 9]

Let’s take a few moments to see how the different people in this chapter either saw or didn’t see the same man.

#### **Scripture—John 9:1-11, NIV**

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

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Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" Some claimed that he was.

Others said, "No, he only looks like him."

But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

"How then were your eyes opened?" they demanded.

He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

**[Slide #4: What did they see...Jesus saw a man with a need.]**

## 1. Jesus saw a man with a need.

- Jesus saw a man who had been rejected and misunderstood by society.
- Jesus saw a man with a physical need that He could remedy and thereby bring glory to God.
- Is that the way we see lost people around us?
- Do we truly see how we can make an impact on the world?
- Or do we see more like the disciples who were with Jesus?

**[Slide #4: What did they see...The disciples saw a man to look down upon.]**

## 2. The disciples saw a man to look down upon.

- They saw him as a man with a need that they wanted to steer clear of.
- They saw him as someone less fortunate than themselves, but looked at him with disdain.
- Is that how we see lost people around us?
- Do we pity them and think to ourselves, "How can people live a day without Jesus," and yet do nothing to help them know Him?
- Or worse yet, do we see more like the religious leaders of the day...

[Read John 9:13-41.]

**[Slide #4: What did they see...The Pharisees saw a man that they could exploit.]**

## 3. The Pharisees saw a man with a need that they could exploit for their own purposes.

- The Pharisees saw this healed man only as a means to get at Jesus.
- How many times had they passed him on that same street and not noticed him?
- How many times did they see him and his need, but decided to turn their heads the other way so they wouldn't have to deal with the fact that they should do something to help him?

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- These were the very people who should have been reaching out to him and ministering to him.
- These were the very people who were supposed to be connected to God and be able to meet this man's need.
- Yet, they can't verify who he is, or if his need is real.
- Worse yet, they insult him and reject him even further for simply telling them about someone who really saw him and really cared enough to meet his need.

In verse 39, we read...

### Scripture—John 9:39, NIV

Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

All around us every day are people with needs, just waiting for us to really see them, really notice them, really reach out to them, really help them.

- They sit next to us in class.
- They ride next to us on the bus.
- They sack the groceries at the register where we pick up food.
- They live in the house next door to us.
- They play on the same team as us.

Do we "spy" them like Jesus? Or are we left guessing like the disciples or judging like the Pharisees?

They are not just around us here, but they are all around the world. Everywhere, there are people with needs which we have the ability to meet.

- I spy...a Muslim in Central Europe who needs a ride to the market.
- And I spy...a missionary who needs a student to help provide them with a \$10,000 vehicle to give that Muslim a ride to the market, along with a copy of the book of Proverbs since they accept Solomon as a prophet.
- I spy...a pagan in the Amazonian jungles of Venezuela who has never heard of Jesus.
- And I spy...a missionary who needs students to provide him with a motorboat to travel days up the river and a DVD player, video projector, screen, and generator to show that pagan "The Jesus Film."
- I spy... a student from another nation on a university campus in my state who is open to new ideas, new thoughts, a new way of life and has never had an adequate presentation of the Good News about Jesus.
- And I spy...a Chi Alpha campus pastor who has the passion and the plan to share Jesus with that student, but needs some teenagers to also see the need and provide a sound system for them to use at a meeting of international students where the gospel will be presented.

**[Slide #6: I Spy...do you?]**

**I spy them, do you?**

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- Do you spy the lost in need of a Savior, like Jesus saw the blind man?
- Do you spy the missionary in need of help to fulfill their calling?
- Or do you just see them and feel pity, but do nothing about it like the disciples?
- Or do you just ignore their need, unless you are going to win a trophy, or a trip, or a prime spot in a video about students who give to Speed the Light, like the Pharisees ignored the blind man till he could serve their personal agenda?

Today, Jesus is saying, "I spy someone who is lost and hurting."

- He wants you to see what He sees.
- He wants you to feel what He feels.
- And He wants you to do what He would do...do something about it!
- When you see like Jesus sees...***this changes everything!***

### **Conclusion:**

In just a moment, we are going to set goals and give in an offering to help Speed the Light of Jesus' love and power to the lost around our nation and around the world.

As we pray, would you ask Jesus to open your spiritual eyes and help you see not only the needs, but also the way in which you can help meet those needs?

Then set your goal and give in the way that He leads you.

