

Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John

October 18th, 2020

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What Blinds Us from Jesus? (John 9:1-41)

1. Blindspot 1: Moral Superiority (vv. 1-13)

2. Blindspot 2: Intellectual Superiority (vv. 15-34)

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. What's the darkest place you've ever been? How did your eyes adjust? How did you rely on your other senses to determine your surroundings?

For Further Thought and Discussion:

3. Jesus' healing of the blind man is the sixth "*sign*" in John's Gospel (9:1-41). What does this sign reveal about Jesus (see 8:12)? How does Jesus' coming to earth expose the true condition of our hearts (v. 39; see also John 3:18-21)? Read vv. 40-41. Why does the path to true spiritual sight require us to admit we are blind?
4. Why would Jesus heal the blind man by making mud and applying it to his eyes (vv. 6-8; see v. 14)? Why might this action have troubled the religious leaders? Why would Jesus do something so intentionally provocative?
5. In this passage, the disciples (v. 2), the crowds (vv. 6-13), the religious leaders (vv. 15-34), and the blind man (v. 31) all exhibit varying degrees of spiritual blindness. What examples of spiritual blindness do you see in the passage? With your group, make a list of them.
6. The Pharisees claim they are disciples of Moses (vv. 28-29); i.e. that they have the authority to interpret and apply the law of Moses for the people of Israel? How is this ironic, given how they handle Scripture in this passage?

Application:

7. How do moral and intellectual superiority blind us to our need for Jesus' mercy and direction? How have you found this to be true in your own life? Jeff offered a few questions to diagnose spiritual blindness in our own lives. Which of these stood out to you? Why?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?