

BAD RELIGION
Spectator– Part 3 of 7

KEY OBSERVATION: John and the other disciples did not choose to follow Jesus because of **FAITH**. They followed Jesus because of what they **SAW** and **HEARD**.

“1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it...3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard...” 1 John 1:1-3

“31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing, you might have life in his name.” John 20:31

- **THIRD SIGN:** The healing on the **SABBATH**.

“1 Sometime later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. 3 Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.” John 5:1-4

“5 One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, ‘Do you want to get well?’” John 5:5-6

“7 ‘Sir,’ the invalid replied, ‘I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.’ 8 Then Jesus said to him, ‘Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.’ 9 At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, 10 so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, ‘It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.’” John 5:7-10

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.” Exodus 20:8

KEY TRUTH: When what’s **BEST** for people is no longer what’s most important to you, you are at **ODDS** with God.

“For God so loved the world, he sent his Son...” John 3:16

“11 But he replied, ‘The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’” John 5:11

“Rabbi who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind.” John 9:2

“12 So they asked him, ‘Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?’ 13 The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there. 14 Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, ‘See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.’ 15 The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well. 16 So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders persecuted him. 17 Jesus said to them, ‘My Father is always at work to this very day, and I, too, am working.’ 18 For this reason, they tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.” John 5:12-18

IMPORTANT QUESTION #1: Who do **YOU** think he is?

“Jesus gave them this answer: ‘I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees the Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.’” John 5:19

“39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me to have life.” John 5:39-40

“The Word became flesh...” John 1:14

BOTTOM LINE: We almost always know what **LOVE REQUIRES** of us and that’s enough.

“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” 1 John 4:8

IMPORTANT QUESTION #2: Does my version of Christianity get in the way of me **LOVING** people that God **LOVES**?