

05/03/20 Sermon Notes

Part of Just Getting Started A series on the Gospel of John
May 1, 2020

Message: Just the Facts

Series: Just Getting Started

Recap: We're in the 15th week of this series on the Gospel of John. Written by one of many Johns in Scripture, this was the disciple who Jesus loved. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are synoptic gospels (they are similar in structure and content) but John is different. He wrote his gospel to the world, to you. John tells the story of Jesus' life, ministry, death, resurrection, and it tells the story that through Jesus, you're Just Getting Started!

Jesus Meets a Need

- Jesus encounters someone who NEEDS a touch from God

A man had lived his entire life blind, without the gift of sight. In an instant, this man was healed by Jesus. In an instant, he could see! But Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath, breaking the rules, traditions, and laws!

John 9:16 (NLT)

This man Jesus is not from God, for he is working on the Sabbath.

- They were missing the FACT Jesus was God
- The Pharisees didn't BELIEVE

The Pharisees began to question the parents of the man who was healed. In vv.20-21 they said – here are the facts – he was born blind and now he can see, and he's old enough to speak for himself!

The Pharisees Make Threats

The Pharisees were so anti-Jesus, they made an announcement:

- Anyone who says Jesus is the Messiah would be KICKED OUT of the synagogue (kicked out of their church) (v22)
- The Pharisees (again) call Jesus a SINNER (v24)

The fella who was healed made one profound statement to the Pharisees questioning of Jesus:

John 9:30-33 (NLT)

30 “Why, that’s very strange!” the man replied. “He healed my eyes, and yet you don’t know where he comes from?”

31 We know that God doesn’t listen to sinners, but he is ready to hear those who worship him and do his will.

32 Ever since the world began, no one has been able to open the eyes of someone born blind.

33 If this man were not from God, he couldn’t have done it.”

The Pharisees called the man who was healed a sinner and threw him out of the synagogue! That’s the foundation, but here’s the real issue at hand.

John 9:35-41 (NLT)

35 When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

36 The man answered, “Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him.”

37 “You have seen him,” Jesus said, “and he is speaking to you!”

38 “Yes, Lord, I believe!” the man said. And he worshiped Jesus.

39 Then Jesus told him, “I entered this world to render judgment—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind.”

40 Some Pharisees who were standing nearby heard him and asked, “Are you saying we’re blind?”

41 “If you were blind, you wouldn’t be guilty,” Jesus replied. “But you remain guilty because you claim you can see.

Many places in the Bible...

- Jesus is referred to as a SHEPHERD

Genesis 49:24 (NKJV)

But his bow remained in strength. And the arms of his hands were

made strong by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel)

Ezekiel 34:31 (NIV)

You my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, are people, and I am your God, declares the Sovereign LORD.

Psalms 23:1 (NLT)

The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

Why do you have all that you need?

- God is your shepherd and God ALWAYS cares for his sheep

Jesus, the shepherd, went and found the man. Jesus continuously went to people (where they were, as they were) and loved on them, served them, and met their needs (where they were, as they were).

- Jesus FOUND this man

Jesus asked in v35, “Do you believe in me?” Because everything depends on the man’s answer to that question. Jesus healed the man and now was saying – you need to be saved!

Missing the Miracle

What blows my mind is how Jesus could have went through all that in John 9:1-34... so many opportunities and the man didn't realize that Jesus was who he said he is! Jesus is God! The man was so enamored by the healing, he missed the miracle! Sometimes we're so focused on getting what we want - we miss the one who gave it to us!

—Pastor Chad

- When you miss the miracle, you miss out on giving THANKS to the one who gave you the miracle in the first place
- Jesus wanted the man to open his EYES

He also wanted the man to hear what he was saying.

- We can't hear from God if/when we don't LISTEN

Real Change

Something happened in the man's life that day and his eyes were opened, his ears were opened, and he realized Jesus was God!

- The man BELIEVED
- The man WORSHIPED

Jesus' message wasn't over.

John 9:39 (NLT)

Then Jesus told him, "I entered this world to render judgment - to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind.

- Jesus came to give SIGHT
- Jesus came to show those who THINK they can see, they are really blind

The Pharisees called out, "Are you saying we're blind?"

Jesus told them, you remain guilty in the eyes of God because...

- You don't RECOGNIZE God (Me)
- You REFUSE to look or listen for God (Me)
- You REJECT God (Me)

They were blinded by their pride, their self-righteousness, their tradition, and their false interpretation of the Word of God. Our Lord's reply was a paradox. 'If you were blind, you would be better off. But you claim to see. Therefore, you are guilty!' Blindness would at least be an excuse for not knowing what was going on. But they did know what was going on. Jesus had performed many miracles and the religious leaders ignored the evidence.

—Warren Wiersbe

The Jewish leaders ignored the facts - and that made them blind (and they didn't even know it).

The Scope of Jesus' Love

You see, on some level, Jesus was ministering to people, but he was also ministering to the Pharisees. He didn't like their actions, but he loved them! He was giving the Pharisees opportunity - after opportunity - after opportunity to change their beliefs, change their lives, and believe in him. Yet over and over and over again, they rejected Jesus.

—Pastor Chad

How many times has Jesus given you (opportunity after opportunity) to change your beliefs... change your life... and believe in him?

How many times have you rejected him?

Like the Pharisees, are you spiritually blind and don't even know it?

I sincerely hope not, because the facts are simple - Jesus loves you so much that he would do anything including being beaten, mocked, spit on, cussed at, humiliated, hung on a cross to die... he would do anything so you could avoid death and hell in exchange for eternal life with him in heaven. He loves you that much! That my friend, is a fact!

—Pastor Chad