

Contagious But Controversial Jesus

Showdown with Jesus in the Gospel of John

You Could Still Be Blind and Not Know It

Examining Spiritual Blindness

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, Aug. 14, 2011

John 9:1-41

I. Jesus Never Stopped Seeing Individual People ~ Despite the Conflict and Crowds that Pressed All Around Him

John 8:58-9:1

II. Jesus Never Got Lost in the Religious Traditions of His Day But Kept Pressing for Simple Faith in Who He Was and What He'd Come to Do

John 9:14 "Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes."

The religious leaders had lost sight of the main thing – the Messiah... the Savior... the Son of God. They chose a system over a Savior.

Romans 10:1-4

III. Jesus Can Change You and Use Your Simple Testimony to Confound the So-Called Experts of Our Day (9:8-38)

Some things you can EXPECT to be happening in your life when Jesus shows up!

A. When Jesus Does a Work in Your Life People Are Going to Ask Questions

B. When People Ask Questions You Might Think You Have to be an Expert But You Don't

John 9:25 "One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."

2 Corinthians 11:3 "But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ." NASB

Work hard in your conversations to turn people away from the HOW and back to the WHO; get them thinking about Jesus Christ and considering the claims of Christ.

British pastor and author, **John Stott**, died last month at the age of 90... after pastoring more than 60 years... and writing more than 50 books... but he always kept it simple. His book *Basic Christianity* has sold 2 ½ million copies now... in 60 different languages. And while the evangelical world is sure to miss him... his friends were not limited to Christian circles alone.

In 2004 *The New York Times* did an article about John Stott that prompted singer Paul Simon (as in Simon & Garfunkel fame) to ask if he could meet with him. They ended up having tea together for several hours in Stott's little apartment there in London. And when they met Paul Simon started right in complaining about specific people that were a part of the religious right... but John Stott gently interrupted him and said, "I am more interested in what you think of Jesus Christ." *World Magazine*, "Humble Giant," Mindy Belz, August 13, 2011, Vol. 26, No. 16

I Corinthians 1:19-25

C. You Can Expect the World and the Religious Power Brokers of Our Day to Intimidate, Mock and Heap Insults on You

IV. Jesus Didn't Come to Condemn But When You Refuse to Own Your Blindness and Submit to Him You Condemn Yourself

John 9:39-41

The Pharisees had natural sight and were convinced they had spiritual sight, but their rejection of Jesus showed that they were really blind.

- In which category do you put yourself?
- Do you see yourself as one who cannot see – and desperately needs Christ to intervene? Or do you think you see pretty well... and have it all figured out on your own... without Christ?

John 3:16–20