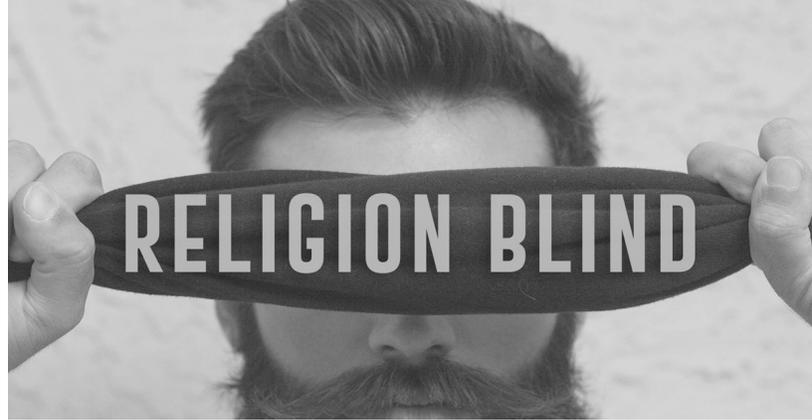


The Cross is Enough for a World-Changing Life

Week of November 13, 2016

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.



RELIGION BLIND

Message Recap:

Read: Matthew 16:1-12

Some of us are God blind; we can't see our need to kneel to God because we feel sufficient in our own abilities. Some of us are religion blind which blinds us to our relationship with Jesus. Being religion blind is the worse condition because we think we are doing what we need to do to be close to God—but we aren't. This is the condition to which we will often default back to because it puts us in control. God wants more for you than religion. He wants a relationship with us because nothing is more important than being in a right relationship with God. Here's why: In religion, God is never enough for a life of world-changing joy because religion is always looking for more than Jesus. It always says, "Give me a sign." When you are born into a relationship with Jesus, the cross is enough for a world-changing life because faith always says, "Show me the impossible!"

Pray

God, I don't want to be blind anymore. I want to see you for what you are. I want to live a life of world-changing joy, believing the impossible and knowing right where I need to be—in relationship with you. Help me wake up from dead, dissatisfying religion and help me live my mission to change the world as a champion for Christ.

Getting Started

- Have you ever drunk some water or a soda that was sitting in a warm car, thinking it was still cold but finding out it was lukewarm or hot? How did it taste to you?
- Describe elements of your best relationship with a person you love.

Digging Deeper

1. Religion can be defined as the rules we think we have to follow to be near God. What are some of the "religion rules" you impose on yourself (or others) or others impose on themselves (or you)?
2. How would you define "Religion Blind"? How does Matthew 23:15 support your definition?
3. Nothing is more important than being in right relationship with God. What does a right relationship look like? (Use Scripture to help you define this. For example, Matthew 16:26, Matthew 7:20 and John 6:29)
4. Read Matthew 16:1-12 and use it and other examples to explain these statements:
 - In religion, God is never enough for a life of world-changing joy
 - Religion is always looking for more than Jesus
 - Religion always drifts to "dead"
 - Religion is a lesson in missing the point
5. Do you feel a weight or a joy in matters of faith? What does that say about your state of "blindness"?
6. Why does relationship make such a big difference in matters of faith?
7. Explain why the cross is enough for a World-Changing Life. Is your life world-changing? How? Or what will you do to make it world-changing?

Living Jesus

Don't settle for a life that is religious, using ritual and rules as a substitute for the joyful, living, changing love of God through the life of Jesus and the power of the Spirit. Jesus affected the world because of faith. We are to do the same. What sign are you waiting for? What is the sign that he has already given you? It's time to decide if you are going to be born into a living relationship with Jesus, or if you are going to stay blind and default to religion. Are you born again? Are you living in relationship with Jesus? What is your mission to change the world as a champion of Christ? You can write your answer on the back of this page.