

# Sermon Notes

## The Good Shepherd: Part 2

### April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

- **The Good Shepherd: Part 2**
- Jesus was dealing with some weird religious dysfunction in his day. Glad that doesn't happen anymore...
- Today we look at John 9 and 4 types of ways religion can miss it...along with what we should do instead.
- **John 9:1-41**
- Four types of Bad Religion from John Chapter 9.
- 1) Inappropriate Blame. **John 9:2**
  - One of the greatest mistakes we can ever make is to blame, shame, or condemn wrongly.
    - That is a powerful injustice and an even more powerful misrepresentation of God.
  - A common lie that people believed in Jesus' day was that every bad thing was a result of sin.
    - This caused people, like the man born blind, to be shamed beyond their pain. Yuck.
  - Jesus straightens this out quite directly. **John 9:3**
    - Why did this happen? To show the power and glory of God.
  - Last thought on this one, **Matthew 9:12-13, Matthew 12:7**.
    - They did not go and learn what that meant, so they ended up condemning the innocent.
    - What should we do instead of inappropriate blame? Mercy, not sacrifice.
- 2) Missing the Point. **John 9:16**
  - Really? Their nit-picky distortions of Sabbath Rest caused them to miss seeing this miracle!!
    - When tradition and human rules push out, override, the power and goodness of God.
  - How is it possible that this man being healed didn't result in an incredible celebration!?!?!
    - This is what Jesus was talking about in **Matthew 23:24**.
  - We need to be careful not to trump God's plan with our institutional rules!
    - Instead, be willing to adapt when God shows up!! Like **Acts 11:15-18**.
- 3) Threats and Power Plays to keep control. **John 9:22, John 9:34**
  - Once their religious traditions and personal power were threatened by God's plan, they just threatened back.
    - This man wasn't healed by the Pharisees, the Priests, or in any proper way. Something outside of their control had done this and they didn't like that at all!!
    - Since they couldn't keep control in an honest way, they resorted to threats and intimidation.
    - **John 9:34** is remarkable for the Pharisees' lack of response to **John 9:30**.
      - This actually fulfilled one of the prophecies about Jesus!!
      - Rather than acknowledge that, the Pharisees just insulted him and threw him out!
    - What should we do instead? John the Baptist typified this best: **John 3:26-30**.
- 4) Boldness as a Cover for Ignorance/Insecurity. **John 9:41**
  - It's fine to not know something. In fact, it is refreshing when someone admits that they don't know.
    - But, to pretend you know and cover your ignorance with boldness doesn't fool God and does unintended harm to others.
  - "Social Proof" is not the same as Biblical Truth.
    - Just because everyone around you is saying the same thing, doesn't make it true. **1 Tim 1:5-7**
    - Some people act all confident, but they are still clueless. Don't let them take you in.
  - What should we do instead? Just be honest and humble. We don't know everything. **1 Cor 13:12**
- Closing Scripture **1 Corinthians 3:1-4**.
  - We aren't supposed to be the same as everyone else who ignores Jesus' voice.
  - Instead, we are called to be Children of God, Ambassadors for Christ, Temples of the Holy Spirit.
  - You are not disqualified from that. Jesus has made you qualified. But you have to follow Jesus.
- Get personal prayer by emailing [prayer@goodhope.ag](mailto:prayer@goodhope.ag).