

This is How You Miss God

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John 8:12-18 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true. Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go. Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man. And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me. It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.

- I. The Pharisees are making the same mistake that all men make when they fail to recognize God in their midst.
 - A. Jesus has just told them that He is the light of the world, and that those who follow Him shall not walk in darkness.
 - B. He declared himself on the side of light and righteousness.
 1. This automatically put these creatures of darkness in the light in front of the whole assembly, because they were opposed to Jesus, not following Him, or learning from Him, or considering his words, in any way.
 2. He drew the line in the sand, so to speak, with them; they judge after the flesh, and are from beneath, of this world (v. 15, 23), and He is from above, sent from the Father, and is not of this world.
 3. As the conversation continues through this chapter He uses plainer and plainer words to show that they are the children of the devil and He is the Son of his Father in heaven.
 - C. Their objection is that it is only his word against theirs; that He is only blowing his own horn and therefore there is nothing to what He says about himself.
 - D. But they are blind to all the evidence besides what He says about himself, and this is the mistake that almost all people make when it comes to God working through another person.
 - E. They saw a man, and they refused to see anything more, or hear anything more than the words of a man.
 - F. If we are not listening for God to speak to us, we will be the same way.
 - G. God has enlisted all of Creation to speak to us on his behalf, but when we are not listening nothing can get through to us

Psalm 19:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Psalm 97:6 The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory.

Romans 1:19-20 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

- II. It is pride and blindness that comes from self-love and selfishness that makes a person miss God like this Pharisees did that day.

- A. They considered themselves the representatives of God on earth, and therefore in a much higher position to judge people, but their vision and understanding was limited only to the world and the flesh, because that was all they knew, because that was all they were willing learn about.
 - 1. Their stubborn mistake was fatal to their soul, but you do not have to be in any high position to do the same thing.
 - 2. All proud, selfish people do this very same thing, and have the very same attitude as these Scribes and Pharisees.
 - 3. They refuse to listen to what any man says, unless it affirms what they already believe and think, especially about themselves.
- B. They were not of God and therefore, WOULD not hear God's words.

John 8:47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

- 1. It was a matter of their will, which was held captive by their pride, blindness, and sin.
- 2. Jesus declared them "servants of sin" and offered them freedom, but they refused, because they would not take their carnal, worldly glasses off and look beyond all that.

John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

- 3. It was not because they COULD not, but because they WOULD not hear.
- C. Do not make this same mistake with your soul.
- D. God reaches out to everyone, and He does it through other people.

III. God reaches out to those who are lost and blind and have no knowledge of Him.

- A. To the soul that is sunk into the darkness of this world there is no other way for Him to reach out to them except through other people.
- B. Most respond like these Pharisees responded to Jesus himself.
- C. They only see another person, and in their blindness and selfishness they imagine every other person to be as low, or lower than they are themselves.
- D. The only thing that will make the difference is the witness of God on what we do and say.
- E. This is what Jesus not only claimed, but was manifested clearly in everything He said and did.

John 8:18 I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.

John 8:38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

John 7:46 The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.

Matthew 7:29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

- 1. Jesus was different because He did not come across at all like all the other religious people and leaders had always been.

Luke 2:47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. (at 12-years-old in the temple)

- F. There was the obvious witness of God the Father on everything that Jesus said and did.
 - 1. Only those who were listening for God saw it.

2. The blind Pharisees did not, because they were not listening for it, and only saw a man, who they considered to be nothing compared to themselves.

Luke 8:18 Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.

3. Eight times in the gospels Jesus said, “He that hath ears (or an ear) to hear, let him hear.”
4. Eight times in Revelation He said, “He that hath an ear, let him hear...”

IV. God reaches out to his own people through others, also.

- A. God uses people to teach us, to mold us, to bring us to the “measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:12-13)
- B. He also warns us about watching out for false prophets and teachers.
- C. Only those who have ears to hear can be discerning enough to recognize the difference.
- D. This is not a matter of human wisdom and knowledge, but it is a matter of the Spirit of God dwelling in us.

1 John 5:6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

- E. God’s Spirit will bear witness to us, if we are listening, when it comes to the people God puts in our lives for our good.
- F. Do not miss the opportunities that God gives you through other people, and at the same time do not be taken by the devil’s counterfeits.
- G. Listen for God’s confirmation in your mind and heart.
- H. The Bible gives us some criteria to measure things by, also.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

James 3:13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

1. On the contrary is the devil’s counterfeit, which always has these characteristics:

James 3:14-16 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

- I. This is not the way Jesus approached anyone; there was no envying or strife in Him, but it was very obvious in those who opposed Him.
- J. Be careful with the people God puts across your path.
 1. Sometimes they may be offensive to you at first, but ask yourself whether it is them or you.
 2. Examine the spirit in which they interact with you, and listen for God’s message to you.

Hebrews 13:2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.