

Missing The Obvious

SIGHTINGS

John 5:39-47

History is ***His Story***

Genesis 1:26, Genesis 3-4/ Genesis 12:1-2/ Exodus 12:1-13/ Exodus 20 & Matthew 5:17

MISSING THE OBVIOUS

OLD TESTAMENT BRAIN CRAMPS

They completely missed God's ***heart*** for ***everyone***.

Genesis 12:3/ Deuteronomy 7:6-7/ Psalm 67:2-4 & Isaiah 56:1-8 / John 3:16

They completely missed the ***purpose*** of the ***law***.

Leviticus 16:29-34 & Hebrews 10:1-7/ Deuteronomy 28:15 & Galatians 3:10/ Romans 3:19-20

They completely missed how God ***wanted*** them to ***live***.

Micah 6:6-8/ Psalm 51:16-17/ Amos 5:21-24

NEW TESTAMENT BRAIN CRAMPS

The scholars ***ignored*** what they ***taught***.

Matthew 2:1-16/ Matthew 23:27-28/ Luke 11:46 & 52/ John 5:9-47

The religious zealots ***missed*** what God ***wanted***.

Luke 18:9-14/ Matthew 9:11-13

The disciples didn't think Jesus ***meant*** what He ***said***.

John 14:28-29, Luke 24:6-12 & 44-49/ Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 2:41-47 & Acts 8:1

SOME MODERN-DAY CHRISTIAN BRAIN CRAMPS

Religion:

James 1:27

Love:

Matthew 5:43-45/ 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Forgiving:

Matthew 18:21-35/ Matthew 6:12-15

Sexuality:

1 Corinthians 6:18-20/ 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

The World:

Matthew 5:13-16/ 1 Corinthians 5:9-13/ 2 Timothy 2:24-26

Politics:

Romans 13:1 & 1 Peter 2:13-17

Obedience:

John 2:3-5/ Luke 6:46

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 3, 2009

QUICK REVIEW - Looking back over your sermon notes, was there a particular point or passage of Scripture that challenged, confused or caught your attention?

MY STORY

1. This week we're wrapping up our series on "Sightings: Jesus in the Old Testament." We saw how often Jesus was missed in biblical times. Why do you think many people today miss who Jesus really is?

2. Can you think of a time in your life when you suffered a brain cramp and missed something obvious God wanted you to do? If so, explain.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Missing what God obviously wants for us is often the result of not taking what God says seriously enough. We can also get so focused on a particular issue that we misinterpret it and still miss God's intent for us. Paul warned the Ephesian Church of some "Christian brain cramps" in Ephesians 4:20-32. As you make a list of Paul's instructions, can you think of how someone could take each instruction to a damaging extreme and/or give a reason to not take it seriously?

Ephesians 4:20-32

You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. [21] Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. [22] You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; [23] to be made new in the attitude of your minds; [24] and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

[25] Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. [26] "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, [27] and do not give the devil a foothold. [28] He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

[29] Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. [30] And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. [31] Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. [32] Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. [NIV]

Paul's Instructions

Damaging Extreme / Reason to Ignore

2. Most of us don't plan on getting a "brain cramp" when it comes to living out God's calling. What does Paul tell us to do in Romans 12:1-2 to help prevent us from falling into this trap?

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. [2] Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will. [NIV]

How would you define what it means to "renew your mind"?

"Renewing our minds" can take on a variety of forms based on our personality and season of life. Can you think of anything specific you do to "renew your mind" and sense of connection to God? If so, explain.

3. In addition to “renewing our mind,” Micah 6:8 calls us to put into action three things to help us avoid “spiritual brain cramps.” How would you describe each of these in action?

Micah 6:8

He has showed you, O man, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God. [NIV]

Which one could be most challenging for you to live out?

TAKING IT HOME

This week Larry gave us seven specific modern-day “Christian brain cramps” we need to be aware of. Is there anything you want prayer for this week?

Prayer Requests

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