Living Life With the Lights Out May 17, 2020

*John 9:13-34 Series: Light for Your Darkness*

There's none so blind as those who will not listen. – Neil Gaiman

Intro: When your GPS is wrong.

1. We veer off course when we’re blinded by our assumptions.
2. Don’t dismiss the evidence.

v. 13 *They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.*

Luke 24:9-11 *returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest … but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.*

1. Don’t assume your traditions.

v. 14 *Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.*

v. 16 *Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”*

1. Don’t be afraid to be discerning.

John 7:24 *Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.*

1 John 4:1 *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

* What keeps us from re-examining our assumptions?
* What are some traditions you’ve had to rethink in light of Scripture?
* How do we know whether we’re being discerning or dismissive?
1. We veer off course when we’re afraid of the group.
2. It can be intimidating to face people who disagree with us.

v. 18 *The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight …*

v. 19 *Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?*

1. Fear of the group is a rejection of the fear of God.

v. 21 *… how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age.*

v. 22 *His parents said these things because they feared the Jews …*

John 12:42-43 *Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.*

Proverbs 29:25 *The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.*

1. There are worse things than the disapproval of the group.

v. 22 *… the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.*

* Why is the fear of the group so powerful?
* What does it mean that “they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God?”
* What does it mean that “the fear of man lays a snare?”
* What can help us fear the rejection of the group less?
1. We veer off course when we talk without listening.
2. Some questions aren’t looking for answers.

v. 24 *So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.”*

v. 26 *They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”*

1. Are your favourite conversations monologues?

v. 27 *I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again?*

Proverbs 18:2 *A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.*

Proverbs 18:13 *If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.*

1. Pride unfriends dissenters.

v. 28 *And they reviled him …*

v. 34 *They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.*

* Why is it so dangerous to make up your mind without listening to others?
* How can we work at being better listeners?
* Where do you most need prayer in applying this message?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Colossians 1:24-29.

Notes