

A CASE FOR CHRIST John 9

If you had to make a case for Christ right now how strong would your argument be? What would be the basis for your choice in following Jesus? God tells us it is imperative we are always ready to give a defense for Christ, but what if that defense needs to be directed at ourselves. In an unlikely passage a blind man from John 9 helps us recognize the need for and design of a Case for Christ.

Connecting With the Sermon

1. Before being influenced by the sermon this week, how would you have constructed a case for Christ externally (evangelism) or internally (personal devotion)?

2. Christ used physical suffering to reveal spiritual suffering. How have you experienced physical suffering that enlightened you to a spiritual need/reality?

Digging Deeper

3. Read Romans 5:3-5:

Romans 5:3–5 (NIV) Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Compare Paul's words in Romans to the actions and faith of the Blind man. Where do you see Paul's descriptions in the blind man's life? (ex. suffering - blindness, hope - retelling the miracle...)

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4. Read Ephesians 4:18:

Ephesians 4:18 (NIV) They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

Paul's words describe the Pharisees disposition in John 9 and exposes their spiritual suffering. What is the "life of God" Paul is referring too and what spiritual suffering is experienced by being separated from that life?

Applying

5. As the passage progresses from beginning to end Jesus' identity is revealed by the names attributed to him first as "Jesus"- a man (9:11),

John 9:11 (NIV) He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

then "Prophet" - a wise man (9:17),

John 9:17 (NIV) Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened."
The man replied, "He is a prophet."

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then "the Christ" - savior and deliverer (9:22),

John 9:22 (NIV) His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.

and finally "from God"- sovereignty and authority (9:33).

John 9:33 (NIV) If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

Based on your actions, thoughts, and feelings the past two weeks, what level of identity for Jesus does your life make a case for? Is he just a man, a man worth listening to, your savior and deliver, or sovereign authority for your life? When answering be sure to share the actions, thoughts, or feelings associated.

6. How are you presently suffering and how is God using your trial to build a case for Christ? If you don't know how he is using it, neither did the blind man until Jesus entered his life. Therefore, how are you expecting Jesus to inter into your suffering?

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Prayer Requests

Keep your requests concise but complete

Keep your prayers concise – don't try to impress

Feel free to springboard off another's prayer as God brings different insights to mind

Feel free to pray more than once

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