

There isn't anything much more dangerous than someone on a mission for God who doesn't actually know him!
~ Timothy R. Jennings, *The God Shaped Heart*



Part 2 of 3: *Blind Man's Bluff*

APPETIZER: A Change of Heart

About the human heart... **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

1. The human heart on its own can't be trusted.
Jeremiah 17:9; Mark 7:20-23
2. The human heart has God's will and ways written on it.
Romans 2:14-15; Deuteronomy 10:14-16
3. The human heart is made new through Christ.
Romans 2:28-29; Ezekiel 36:26-27; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 10:16; Isaiah 30:21; Galatians 5 & Romans 8

DINE IN: Exposing Religion's Poison

John 9:8-34

COMPETING SYLLOGISMS...

Syllogism A:

1. Godly people submit to the rules.
2. Jesus overrides the rules.
3. Jesus cannot be from God.

Syllogism B:

1. Only God has the power to heal blindness.
2. Jesus heals blindness.
3. Jesus must be from God.

Deuteronomy 18:15-29 VS Deuteronomy 13:1-5

TAKE OUT: Healing Our Hearts

1. LEARN about the God-who-is-Love through Jesus-centred teaching.
 - a. Read the Bible.
 - b. Engage with Jesus-centred people, books, and podcasts.
 - c. Ask lots of questions.

The Goal... **1 John 4:15**

2. LISTEN to what the Spirit is saying through Scripture, others, and your own heart.
 - a. Meditate on the love of God revealed in Jesus.
 - b. Tune in to the rivers of living water flowing from within you.
(John 7:38)

1 John 4:19

Brain research shows that fifteen minutes a day in meditation or thoughtful communion with the God of love results in measurable development of the prefrontal cortex, especially in the anterior cingulate cortex (ACC). This is the area where we experience love, compassion and empathy. The healthier the ACC, the calmer the amygdala (alarm centre), and the less fear and anxiety we experience. Truly, love casts out all fear!
~ Timothy R. Jennings, *The God Shaped Brain*

HOMEWORK: Take 15 minutes every day this week to read through and then meditate on God's love. Use **1 John 4** as a foundational focus.

3. LIVE what you learn by loving others well every chance you get.

1 John 4:18

FOR FURTHER READING:

- Timothy R. Jennings, *The God Shaped Brain / The God Shaped Heart*
- Andrew Newberg and Mark Robert Waldman, *How God Changes Your Brain: Breakthrough Findings from a Leading Neuroscientist*
- Andrew Newberg, *Neurotheology: How Science Can Enlighten Us About Spirituality*

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. After reviewing the sermon, talk about anything that stood out to you in this message.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

2. Read **John 9:8-34**.
 - a. What verse or idea stands out to you?
 - b. Notice how the man approaches the conversation about Jesus in **verse 25**. How can this inspire a healthy approach to evangelism? What might this look like in a gospel conversation in your life? (Think of times you have been challenged to have all the answers, and how you responded, or might respond next time.)
 - c. How true is this a description of yourself: I was blind, but now I see?
3. Let's try an empathy exercise, to better understand the religious leaders in Jesus' day. Review **verse 16**. Now divide into two groups – for and against Jesus. First group, make **Deuteronomy 13:1-5** your central theme. Second group, make **Deuteronomy 18:15-19** your central theme. Debate as Pharisees, whether Jesus is really the Messiah. Take into account his miraculous power and yet his apparent teaching of a different God than the God of Moses. (Keep things like the Ten Commandments AND Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount in mind as you assess.)

HUDDLE [Making it Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Use your huddle questions. Talk about what God has been showing you and pray for one another.