Adventures in Missing the Point
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John 5:1-18 in Context (2-5)
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I. Introduction
A. Missing the Point: Humor
   Dumb and Dumber…

B. Missing the Point: Tragedy
   Romeo & Juliet

Read John 5:1-47

Overview: consider the themes of John’s gospel from the angle of chp.2-5, with our focus being on the story of Jesus’ healing in 5:1-18

II. Adventures in Missing the Point

A. Missing the Sign – “The Jews” (5:10ff.)
   1. Overlooking the Sign
      
      Illustration: my focus with my boys… The parent doesn’t care about creativity…we care about cleanliness and order. And so did the Pharisees.

   2. Despising the Sign

      Note Jesus’ comment to them in Luke’s Gospel: He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'”

B. Missing the Significance
   Note: the invalid (former invalid) seems oblivious to the significance of the sign…
   1. The Galileans and the Official (4:48-50, 53) → belief without seeing…
      Read 4:47-50, 53.

   2. The Samaritans (4:28-30, 39-42)

   3. The Disciples (2:11, 22)
4. The Crowds and Nicodemus (2:23-25; 3:1ff. → “…you do not receive our testimony…”)

5. Faith Comes from the Word → Jesus’ Approach to the Invalid (5:14)

*Application*: our experience with God and our response to the Word

The question then isn’t what have you experienced from God, but how are you now responding to His Word?

Obedience…repentance…fear…faith in His promises…joy in His revealed goodness…comfort in His tender mercies?

C. Missing the Signified
*Note*: the former invalid didn’t even know Jesus’ name …

The signs point ultimately to a signified – they speak of He who performs them…or as Jesus puts it in 5:36, “the very works that I am doing bear witness about me…”

1. Jesus’ Works – the Father’s Works
   a. Jesus’ Work: In the Father’s Name
      1) True Worshippers … (4)
      2) Giving Life (5:21)
         a) The Official’s Son (4:50-53 3x, “the boy is alive”)
         b) The Invalid – the power to regenerate the body of a 38 year invalid instantaneously (5:8-12 3x)
   b. Application to Us:
      1) Continuity: We act in the Lord’s name to redeem… (Jesus’ word to the disciples about the harvest…)

      *Jesus continues to work in the world through His church… that others may know God in Christ.*

      2) Discontinuity: We do not have life in ourselves… → our works are not meant to testify to who WE are, but who HE is. Our works signify HIM.

   *Note*: the Jewish leaders do not miss the point here… (v.18)

   *Note*: 5:21, 26 → Jesus’ power to give life “to whomever He will” in context
Our hope isn’t in Jesus’ blessings – the gifts He can give us – but in the Lord Himself. The Galileans had the very Eternal Life of God among them, and they wanted to see tricks… Are we all that different? The most wonderful Person in the universe has drawn near and invited us to share in His power and life, to know Him personally, and we’re more interested in what He can do for us. Jesus says to us, “I love you.” We reply, “yes, but what have you done for me lately?”

_Transition:_ Perhaps one of the most significant ways we avoid knowing Jesus personally is through our religion…

2. God’s Word (re-read 5:39-40, 45-46)
   a. The Bible’s About Jesus → it points to Him
      If in our study of Scripture we’re not drawn into a deeper relationship with Christ – a deeper dependence, repentance, brokenness over our sin and need, a deeper joy in His grace, a greater delight in His love, a more profound gratitude for His provision – that is to ever-growing and _thriving_ relationship … then we’re missing the point. As the popular internet meme puts it, you’re doing it wrong!

   b. Life Isn’t in Bible Study, it isn’t found in these words – inspired and illuminated as they are by the Holy Spirit - but in He of whom Scripture Testifies.

   c. Why We Do What We Do… Sunday worship, Small Groups, planting churches … are all that we and others may truly know Jesus - to know God in Christ.

   III. Conclusion

   Everybody missed the point…and in missing the point entirely, they abandoned, betrayed, rejected, despised, condemned and nailed their only hope for life and salvation to a cross. Ironically and mysteriously, that was the point all along. God gets His point across, even though we all missed it. Jesus’ greatest sign was the cross and the empty tomb. It was His last sign and wonder on earth. And it still speaks. Or rather, He still speaks - a Word we need to hear. If anyone looks to the Son of Man lifted up on the cross, He will live! He will know the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit will come and dwell within him. He speaks to us now in His Word: “Listen,” he commands us, “I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him.”