

# SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS AND HYPOCRISY

John 7.1-24 // October 4, 2020

## YOU DON'T KNOW ME

Six months after the feeding of the multitude, the Feast of Booths is upon Israel. Jesus' brothers urge Him to go to Jerusalem to build His following, but He tells them His time is not yet. Even His own brothers did not see or believe who Jesus really was, but only followed Him for what He could provide.

Often, as Christians we want to be Jesus' "campaign manager," insisting that we know what He ought to do and when He ought to do it. And when those things don't come about, a disappointment or regret of a missed opportunity can follow us, eventually even turning into bitterness or other idolatries.

## DISSATISFIED HYPOCRISY

When we hear something we don't like or that convicts us, our inner lawyer comes out to justify us and get us off the hook. We have our go-to responses:

- Did God *really* say... (remember Satan and Eve!)
- Is that what Jesus *really* meant?
- But this is different!
- It's not like I'm (compare to something worse)...

Matthew 7.1-5, 11.16-19

**We love the hard sayings of Christ,  
As long as they are for someone else.**

## FOR THE JOY SET BEFORE HIM

Professing Christians have, throughout history, commonly responded to the hard sayings and humble example of Christ with push back, excuses, and reasons for their own exemption. However, for the joy set before Him, Christ lovingly, sacrificially, and patiently endured from sinners hostility (Hebrews 12.3) and remained faithful to His Father's will to save all that God had given to Him.

Despite our own hypocrisy, backbiting, weaknesses, we can take comfort that even His own brothers who didn't believe, eventually did come to faith and became leaders in the early church, even dying for their faith.

**Following Jesus means letting Him expose your sin,  
your blind spots, comforts, selfish preferences, past  
disappointments, weaknesses, misguided desires, missed  
opportunities and regrets, wishful thinking, judgementalism,  
and any other idolatries in our hearts.**

## NOTES:

### This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

**Psalm 107:13-14**

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and burst their bonds apart.

## ARE YOU NEW HERE?

### WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We'd love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

### WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

Our childrens' ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. We have a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walkthrough of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Amber Willis at [amber@lifemission.tv](mailto:amber@lifemission.tv)**

### JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th - 8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshipping with the adults** and then head to their classroom with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service. Visit our website to read more about our junior high ministry and a walkthrough of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders stay in the service** with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate high school.

For more information about our Junior High & High School ministries, email **Tyler Willis at [tyler@lifemission.tv](mailto:tyler@lifemission.tv)**.

## Contact Us

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## COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before group starts, who can share the **Memory Verse**?

Read **John 7.1-24**. What stands out in this passage, and what stuck out to you most from the sermon on Sunday?

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Spiritual blindness (like Jesus' brothers) and hypocrisy (like the Jews) are both things that can affect even believers. Read **Matthew 7.1-5**. In what areas of life might you be "seeing" the way His brothers' or the Jews in this story do? And what might you do to break out of this wrong way of seeing or thinking?

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### Your Life Mission

What relationships or conversations are upcoming that you could use prayer for?

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End the evening in a time of prayer, praying through the theme of the night using the **P.R.A.Y.** model with your group. Pray for these people you have mentioned and for your heart and plan as you pursue them in love.

- **Preaching the Gospel to Yourself**
  - Always begin your time of prayer focusing on God's goodness, who He is, and what He has done for us. Pray truths from this week's text.
- **Repent and Confess**
  - Confess any particular sin that prevents you from walking out what God calls us to in the text, or any other particular sin you are wanting to fight. Ask Him to help you have strength to repent and run towards Him.
- **Ask for Provision**
  - Once our hearts are fixed on Him, we can ask Him to help us with our needs. Ask Him to work in the relationships in your life that you are hoping to share God's love with.
- **Yield with Thanksgiving**
  - End your prayer by giving God thanks for His faithfulness and ask Him to help you trust and yield to His work and ways.



**LIFE MISSION**  
C H U R C H

**MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY,  
WHO ARE SAVED, EQUIPPED, AND SENT BY THE GOSPEL.**



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### SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School  
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

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