

DIDN'T SEE IT
COMING



PART 1: MY INNER CYNIC

Sermon Notes

Text: John 1:43-46; Luke 4:22; John 20:24-29

Intro: Didn't See it Coming

This series address challenges we all experience, but never see coming. With a little self-awareness we can prepare ourselves for these challenges.

"Scratch any cynic and I'll show you a disappointed idealist." - George Carlin

We all have an inner cynic that we battle with.

Three cynical encounters with Jesus:

I. Nathaniel

John 1:43-46

Cynicism is often the result of deep rooted prejudice.

"Honest inquiry is the cure for prejudice." - D. A. Carson

II. Nazareth

Luke 4:14-30

Cynicism disguises itself as wisdom.

Cynicism isn't looking for answers, it is looking to justify itself.

III. Thomas

John 20:24-29

Cynicism is the result of hurt and unmet expectations.

"The thrust of the gospel is that Jesus sees *your* hate and meets it with love. He sees *your* despair and counters it with hope. He sees *your* doubt and lobs belief back at you again and again. Cynicism melts under the relentless hope of the gospel." - Carey Nieuwhof

Conclusion: Holy Curiosity

"Taste and see that the Lord is good..." - Psalm 34:8

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Have you ever experienced an inner challenge in your life that you didn't see coming? Looking back, do you think it could have been avoided?
2. What stood out to you about Sunday's sermon? What was interesting? Confusing? Weird? Thought provoking?

Study & Discussion:

1. Do you know a cynical person? What is it like being around them? Depressing? Hilarious? Demoralizing? All the above?
2. Read John 20:24-29. Do you relate to Thomas? What strikes you in Jesus' response to Thomas? What does this story make you feel or think?
3. Like in the stories of Nathanael, Nazareth and Thomas, cynicism can creep into our relationship with God. Do you ever find yourself skeptical of God and his promises? Why or why not?
4. In the study notes there is a quote from Carey Nieuwhof about how the gospel and cynicism. How can understanding the gospel drive out doubt in our lives?

Application:

1. Gospel curiosity is the cure for cynicism. How will you keep yourself curious this week?

Prayer:

- Pray that we would be filled with love, faith, and hope.

Other Requests

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