

JESUS STYLE EVANGELISM – SUPERSTITIOUS RELIGIOUS PEOPLE

Introduction - Many Americans have superstitious religious beliefs about wearing crosses, giving money to be blessed, and guessing what the will of God is for their life. They participate in religion in order to gain God's favor in order to be personally blessed.

A. The real issue for the superstitiously religious

John 5:1-6

1. It was a common superstition in the ancient world that certain sacred pools of water had special healing powers.
2. Serious physical illness, psychological disorders, and economic problems drive people to seek divine healing.
3. Needy people are attracted to religious groups where they wait passively for God to act.
4. The real issue is: "Do you want to be healed?"

B. Jesus heals, in contrast to the religious who are enforcing their traditional rules.

John 5:7-13

1. Everyone has an excuse about why they have problems.
2. Jesus challenged him to take a step of faith.
3. This created problems for the religious leaders, because the man was carrying his mat and had been healed on the Sabbath.
4. The healed man did not even know his Savior yet.

C. The final challenge of Jesus

John 5:14-18

1. In some cases a person's physical, psychological, or economic situation is the consequence of habitual sinful behavior. Their problem is only a symptom.
2. Now he was ready to be introduced to Jesus as his Savior.
3. Instead of rejoicing that a man had been healed, the religious leaders were fixated on Sabbath-breaking and Jesus' claims about his relationship to God.

4. Jesus' actions spoke for themselves, but the guardians of religious tradition were blinded to the obvious.

Conclusion – We must challenge superstitious religious people to take reasonable responsibility for their condition. Then we can introduce them to Jesus, our Savior.