

JESUS STYLE EVANGELISM – NOMINALLY RELIGIOUS

Introduction – Many self-identify as Christian in America. But when asked specifics about what they believe and practice, we see that the majority are only nominally religious. According to a recent Barna survey for the State of New Jersey only 13% were highly committed to Christian beliefs and practice, while 29% were moderately committed, and 58% were low in their commitment to Christianity.

A. Let us examine Jesus' encounter with the nominally religious.

John 9:1-12

1. Jesus saw the man as an opportunity to display the transformative power of God.
2. The disciples only saw a potential theological question rather than an opportunity for God to intervene.
3. Jesus required the man to demonstrate his faith by obedient action.
4. Nominally religious are blind to the full meaning of Christianity and have experienced no real change in their lives.

B. The reality of this man's change is questioned by the religious leaders.

John 9:13-23

1. The nominally religious are ignored unless they are changed, then the validity of this transformation is questioned.
2. Nominally religious go through a process in their understanding of Jesus.
3. One's neighbors and parents may abandon the nominally religious if they suddenly change.

C. Who is Jesus – really?

John 9:24-34

1. If one violates dearly-held religious traditions, they are usually rejected by the religious.
2. Logic leads the healed man to his conclusions about Jesus.
3. Religious guardians of tradition are close-minded and cannot see obvious truth.

Conclusion – Nominally religious people must encounter Jesus people who can help open their eyes to see the truth and be changed. Conflict with the institutionally religious leads them out of these institutions into the community of Jesus.

John 9:35-39