Missing The Obvious

SIGHTINGS
John 5:39-47

History is His Story

MISSING THE OBVIOUS

OLD TESTAMENT BRAIN CRAMPS
They completely missed God’s heart for everyone.

They completely missed the purpose of the law.

They completely missed how God wanted them to live.
Micah 6:6-8/ Psalm 51:16-17/ Amos 5:21-24

NEW TESTAMENT BRAIN CRAMPS
The scholars ignored what they taught.

The religious zealots missed what God wanted.

The disciples didn’t think Jesus meant what He said.

SOME MODERN-DAY CHRISTIAN BRAIN CRAMPS
Religion:
James 1:27

Love:
Matthew 5:43-45/ 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Forgiving:
Matthew 18:21-35/ Matthew 6:12-15

Sexuality:
1 Corinthians 6:18-20/ 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

The World:
Matthew 5:13-16/ 1 Corinthians 5:9-13/ 2 Timothy 2:24-26

Politics:
Romans 13:1 & 1 Peter 2:13-17

Obedience:
John 2:3-5/ Luke 6:46

MISSING THE OBVIOUS

OLD TESTAMENT BRAIN CRAMPS

They completely missed God’s __________ for ____________.

They completely missed the __________ of the __________.

They completely missed how God __________ them to ________.
Micah 6:6-8/ Psalm 51:16-17/ Amos 5:21-24

NEW TESTAMENT BRAIN CRAMPS

The scholars __________ what they ____________.

The religious zealots __________ what God ____________.

The disciples didn’t think Jesus __________ what He ________.

SOME MODERN-DAY CHRISTIAN BRAIN CRAMPS

Religion:
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Growth Group Homework
For the week of May 3, 2009

QUICK REVIEW - Looking back over your sermon notes, was there a particular point or passage of Scripture that challenged, confused or caught your attention?

MY STORY
1. This week we’re wrapping up our series on “Sightings: Jesus in the Old Testament.” We saw how often Jesus was missed in biblical times. Why do you think many people today miss who Jesus really is?

2. Can you think of a time in your life when you suffered a brain cramp and missed something obvious God wanted you to do? If so, explain.

DIGGING DEEPER
1. Missing what God obviously wants for us is often the result of not taking what God says seriously enough. We can also get so focused on a particular issue that we misinterpret it and still miss God’s intent for us. Paul warned the Ephesian Church of some “Christian brain cramps” in Ephesians 4:20-32. As you make a list of Paul’s instructions, can you think of how someone could take each instruction to a damaging extreme and/or give a reason to not take it seriously?

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<tr>
<th>Paul’s Instructions</th>
<th>Damaging Extreme / Reason to Ignore</th>
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2. Most of us don’t plan on getting a “brain cramp” when it comes to living out God’s calling. What does Paul tell us to do in Romans 12:1-2 to help prevent us from falling into this trap?

How would you define what it means to “renew your mind”?

“Renewing our minds” can take on a variety of forms based on our personality and season of life. Can you think of anything specific you do to “renew your mind” and sense of connection to God? If so, explain.

3. In addition to “renewing our mind,” Micah 6:8 calls us to put into action three things to help us avoid “spiritual brain cramps.” How would you describe each of these in action?

Which one could be most challenging for you to live out?