

Dr. Ron Armstrong • June 27, 2021

The Movement Begins: I Can't See My Blind Spot

Acts 4:1 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. [2] They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. [3] They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. [4] But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

[5] The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. [7] They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

[8] Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! [9] If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, [10] then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. [11] He is

'the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the capstone.'

[12] Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

[13] When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. [14] But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. [15] So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. [16] "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everybody living in Jerusalem

knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it."

[18] Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. [19] But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. [20] For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

A. The trouble with blind spots.

1. They were so focused on the theory of resurrection that they missed an actual resurrection.
2. The Sanhedrin wanted to stop the teaching and ignored that a man had been healed.
3. Commonly in the Christ-follower's blind spot:
 - a. Focusing on the worship style or the worship leader more than worshipping.
 - b. Focusing on personal enjoyment more than the church's Kingdom mission.
 - c. Focusing on controversies more than on discipleship.
4. How about a relationship blind spot?
 - a. Do you see who you want someone to be instead of who they are?
 - b. Are you ignoring red flags that are apparent to people who love you?
 - c. Are you spending time with someone who makes you the worst version of you?
5. Four keys to finding a blind spot:
 - a. Admit that you could have one. Watch for results you can't quite understand.
 - b. Accept that seeing it may be painful. The pain of finding it will be less than the pain of keeping it.
 - c. Ask a mature, experienced believer to be a truth-teller to you.

d. Don't defend, deny, argue, or even admit it; just commit to weighing and praying.

B. You are not alone in this “blind spot” battle.

1. Be cautious about judging other people's blind spots. We all have some.
2. God is able to use unschooled, ordinary people like us to help us.