Characteristics of Spiritual Blindness
Mark 14:53-65

I. When you go back over the life of Jesus as seen in the gospel of Mark and consider all that He did- have you ever considered why so many refused to believe in Him.

II. In 1Cor. 1:18 Paul provides some insights into this.

III. This foolishness can be described in another way in Matt. 15:12-14

IV. You see, many of Jesus’ did not follow Him because they were spiritually blind. They could not and would not see Jesus for who He really was.

V. Things are no different today. So many refuse to accept Jesus as the Christ because they are spiritually blind.

VI. The truly sad thing about spiritual blindness is that it is self induced. No one is born spiritually blind. Like all sin, it is a spiritual disease created within the hearts and minds of the individual affected by it.

VII. In our lesson today we will consider some characteristics which point to spiritual blindness.

1. Spiritual blindness fabricates evidence
2. Spiritual blindness ignores truth
3. Spiritual blindness mocks truth

VIII. The reason we need to understand this is the same for any disease. Once a doctor knows what someone has they can begin proper treatment.

IX. There is a cure for spiritual blindness - it’s an open honest heart. If people will open their minds to Christ then He will be able to heal them spiritually.

X. As we come to the close of Jesus’ life - on the night He was betrayed - we find a group of people who are spiritually blind. It’s in this initial trial of Jesus that get to see the characteristics of spiritual blindness.

Trans: Lets consider the first characteristic displayed at this trial

1. Spiritual blindness fabricates evidence
   A. Mark 14:55-61

   B. What’s interesting about what’s taking place here, is that Jesus has already been arrested as if He were a criminal and now they are looking for evidence for His guilt.
      Mark 14:48

   C. Notice Mark 14:55, they kept trying to obtain testimony but were not finding any.
      1. Should they not have already had testimony before they arrested Jesus?
      2. That’s the reason you arrest someone, because of the testimony of wrong doing.
      3. Especially when we are talking about the kind of testimony that would give cause to put someone to death.

   D. In these passages we find a problem with the evidence being presented, it’s being fabricated.
      1. Mark 14:56-58
      2. The testimony offered is false and inconsistent.
3. Notice what Jesus had said in regards to this, John 2:18-21

**Appl:** So here Jesus is, arrested for being a criminal and yet there is no evidence of wrong doing.

All evidence is fabricated, we know this to be the case for two reasons. One, it’s called false and two the chief priest could not use it to convict Jesus of any wrong doing.

Look what Spiritual blindness does to people. They are seeking evidence to put Jesus to DEATH, and people are willing to fabricate that evidence. What had Jesus done to these people that would lead them to lie in order to cause His death?

They were spiritually blind. and spiritual blindness fabricates evidence to serve it’s on purpose.

**Trans:** So there is no evidence of wrong doing, but spiritual blindness doesn’t stop here. this takes us to our second point.

2. **Spiritual blindness ignores truth**
   
   **A. Mark 14:61-64**
   
   B. The fact is, there was no evidence to convict Jesus, but that is not good enough for those who are spiritually blind. When people want what they want they will ignore the plain truth.
   
   C. Further evidence of this is seen in how the high priest reacts when Jesus responds to His question.
      1. He asks Jesus if He is the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?
      2. Jesus says He is.
      3. The high priest tears his clothes in anger and disapproval of what Jesus has just said.
      4. He believes this is the evidence he has ben looking for and this evidence came from Jesus’ own mouth.
   
   D. But here’s the problem, what Jesus said was true and all he had taught and done in their presence had already proved it, **Acts 2:22**
   
   E. Even the Father Himself publicly testified to this fact, **Mark 1:9-11**
   
   F. So just because the high priest didn’t like what he heard didn’t make it wrong or a reason to put Jesus to death.

**Illust:** This would be like the prosecutor in a court trial saying that Joe Smith was guilty of a crime and when he asks the defendant his name and he says Joe Smith, the prosecutor claims victory.

**Appl:** In this trial of Jesus - when all the false evidence did not add up - all that was left was the truth. And the truth was Jesus was who He claimed to be.

Just because the high priest didn’t like this fact doesn’t change it from being a fact and screaming foul doesn’t make it one.

All the high priest and the people had to do was look back over the life of Jesus and let that evidence speak for itself.

But Spiritual blindness doesn’t seek truth it ignores it.
Trans: Spiritual blindness does not end here. It’s not enough to ignore truth. Spiritual blindness must remove it completely. This takes us to our third and final point.

3. Spiritual blindness mocks truth
   A. Mark 14:65
      B. The problem with ignoring truth is that ignoring it doesn’t make it go away. Truth is still truth and it is still there.
      C. And so spiritual blindness must take the next step to find comfort. Truth must be discredited. How do you do that, it’s truth?
      D. Mock it. If you can make truth - although true - look silly, unpleasant, unsophisticated, or backwoods or even a lie, then although it might be truth it’s not worth having. Gen. 3:1-6
      E. They all agreed Jesus was deserving of death and to hide the shame of accepting this mockery of Justice, they turn on the truth and seek to make it look shameful. Acts 5:40,41

Illust: Acts 7:54-58

Appl: Spiritual blindness can be demonstrated in ugly ways. There are those who simply close their minds to the truth and go about life.

But there are those who cannot even tolerate the existence of something that conflicts with their desires.

Yet when this “something” is truth - simply ignoring it doesn’t change what it is - so it must be mocked to make it look worthless even though truth.

The high priest had no evidence of wrong doing on Jesus’ part. On the contrary all evidence pointed to the truth of what He said. Jesus was the Christ.

But Spiritual blindness doesn’t want truth, it wouldn’t be blind if it did. And so it mocks the truth as a means of self preservation and justification for ignoring it.

Con: When we look back at this first trial of Jesus it’s clear that the whole thing is a sham.

A man is arrested yet there is no evidence of any crime.
The evidence provided is fabricated and doesn’t hold up to scrutiny.
The final verdict of guilt is based upon evidence which acquits Jesus.
The people revel in their victory by mocking the truth.

How sad it is to see what spiritual blindness can do to people.

But friends it doesn’t have to be like this.

Rom. 1:16,17

If people will open their minds to Christ then He will be able to heal them spiritually.