

Doubling Down on Jesus

John 5:1-15, 9:1-41

What's the right response to an encounter with Jesus?

- I. An encounter with Jesus should make us increasingly consider who he is.

- II. An encounter with Jesus should make us more loyal to him.

Discussion Questions

1. What examples of food, products, or people can you think of that elicit a strong “love it or hate it” reaction from most people?
2. What are some common ways people “encounter” Jesus today?
3. Among your non-Christian friends, family members, and co-workers, how is Jesus perceived? In each case, what kind of exposure to Jesus do you think each of these people has had?
4. In the account of the healed paralytic in John chapter 5, which verses tip us off that John (the author) is not holding this man up as an example to be emulated?
5. In the account of the healed blind man in John chapter 9, what are the ways that the healed man refers to Jesus throughout? What kind of progression is shown in his understanding of who Jesus is?
6. What are some similarities between the stories of these two men?
7. What kind of persecution came against each man after they were healed? How did each react?
8. What do you make of the second man’s sassiness in chapter 9? Is it warranted? Is he out of line? Ultimately, what is he commended for?
9. The first man (chapter 5) shows quite a bit of self-interest. The second man (chapter 9) shows interest in upholding Jesus, despite his own personal loss. What are some concrete ways we can put Jesus’ interests above our own in our lives? Be specific.