

Student Ministry

September 20, 2017

Out of Focus

	Length	
09/20	in	
7:00P	mins	
6:00p	0:00	Notes: Preaching: Nugget Meeting: Sermon draft #1: Sermon draft #2: Text:
6:00p	30:00	Freestyle
6:30p	15:00	Leader Huddle
6:45p	15:00	Spotify Playlist https://open.spotify.com/user/hillsongyoungandfree/playlist/3R0B9EI2y4t1KCikMeqkNJ
Worship		
7:00p	0:00	Worship Notes
7:00p	2:00	Welcome - Russ Welcome to StuMin! It is great to have you here. My name is Russ and I lead worship for student ministry and on behalf of everyone that calls this place home, i want to say "welcome." I want to help you welcome one another now. I have quick challenge for you. I want you to find three people with the same first and last initials as you. We'll play some music over the top. 3,2,1 go! ::music::
7:02p	3:00	Music Video During Welcome Challenge - russ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwoZ-ntsRgM https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53ltQz_xS5E https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9ujBoud26k

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7:05p	6:00	Monkey Ticket and blurry game - Chandler You all can have a seat. Wow. What energy in this room. Amazing. Well. Some of you may have noticed that we have reinstated Monkey Tickets at Freestyle. If you haven't you can get in on that next week by getting here just a little earlier and heading to freestyle in the community room. So, now, let's get the monkey tickets ::cue song, Monkey is brought to the stage. fade out song when it gets there:: Alright, I need the people with the following numbers. ****we also need to get four extras for announcements**** Alright, tonight you will be competing in a free throw contest. Only it will be a little different because you'll be wearing these special goggles that, well, make this blurry. You'll have 60 seconds to make as many baskets as you can. One of you will rebound the ball, to make things go a little faster. So, stand on this line and on the count of three, you'll start, 3,2,1 go! ::cue music:: end game, ::fade out music:: Wow! great job! you made X baskets and you made X baskets. Well, for winning, you get Give our players a hand! Go ahead and have a seat. We're going to continue with a song called "you make me brave" https://youtu.be/nvKGbcX2fyl
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7:11p	3:00	<i>You Make Me Brave</i>
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7:14p	5:00	<i>Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)</i>
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7:19p	1:00	Out of Focus Bumper Video
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Length
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7:00P mins

7:20p 3:00 Message - Intro

- Contact Lenses/ Glasses for the first time
- Can I trust the lenses?
- You can trust the bible to bring their world into focus because X, Y, Z

Raise your hand if you have corrective lenses or glasses. Raise 'em high. How old were you when you got them? ::go down and get answers:: Now what were some of the anxieties that you had when you got them for the first time? ::go down and get answers::

I, like many of you, have terrible vision, I'm near sighted, and have had to wear glasses for big chunks of my day for 25 years this year. For the rest of the day i wear contacts. I actually remember the day that i got my glasses in second grade. I rejoined my class while they were in the lunchroom for a mock election between Bill Clinton and George Bush senior. I am that old people.

Well, it was scary stuff. First of all, i didn't want to get judged for using glasses. Glasses definitely had not become a fashion accessory like they are today. Then, secondly, I guess that i just didn't trust them to help me like the doctor said they would. But, the rub was that my vision was 20/60 in both eyes. I could see the board. My world was out of focus.

7:23p 1:00 Prayer

God thank you for bringing us all here tonight. Would you open our eyes to see you more clearly as we sing, as we dance, and as we study your story in the Bible. We pray all these things in the strong name of your son Jesus. Amen.

7:24p 2:00 message Tension

That is our theme for tonight and next week: Out of focus. Today and next Wednesday we'll be talking about the way that the bible, like a lens, bring our lives and certain things about God into better focus. Tonight, what i want to address the emotions that i had with contact lenses and glasses when they come up in our relationship with the bible.

My hope, by the end of my talk is that you'll walk away with tonight's Bottom Line: because you can trust the bible, you can trust what the bible says.

Now, that is easier said than done, and maybe i am fooling myself to think that in the next 8 minutes what i say will move your heart to that point. But, at the very least my hope is that you will begin to consider what is at stake when it comes to trusting the bible. There are some pretty big claims about the world:

-because you are made in the image of God, you have intrinsic value apart from the standards of society.

-because you have been called by God, you have a purpose bigger than any job description can contain or lifetime can exhaust.

-Because of our joining with Jesus' death and resurrection, we are a part of his life that never ends.

Some big stuff.

So, let's look for some reasons to trust what this lens, this bible says for our lives.

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7:26p **7:00** **Message Truth**

Stage Right #1 It is nestled into history

Any casual search on Google will yield a plethora of results that have salacious titles like:

"The Jesus that wasn't there"
"the God delusion"

and my personal favorite

"Jesus of history or Jesus of fantasy"

Of course the central claims of these arguments are that there is no historical record or contemporaries that mention biblical characters.

That would be a good argument, if it were true.

I'll just reference a few of the more significant:

In 1993, archaeologists discovered a tablet called the Tel Dan inscription. On this inscription that was carbon dated back to the ninth century B.C. we read the account of an Aramean King boasting about a victory he won over the house of David and the house of Israel. Sure, it isn't flattering news for David, but it is a historical bit of stone that you can hang your hat on, well, it is probably more like a coffee table.

Second, let's look at the New Testament. of course, the central character in the new testament that we need be concerned about is Jesus. Like Paul says, if Jesus isn't who he says he was, then we are dumb and we should turn this place into an airplane hanger. Well, that is where we turn to our good buddy Josephus, a first century historian who writes about Jesus a couple of times, giving us a couple of solid historical markers. The first mention, like the David artifact, isn't flattering. Josephus was writing about the day that "Festus was now dead, and Albinus was but upon the road; so he assembled the sanhedrin of judges, and brought before them the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James, and some others; and when he had formed an accusation against them as breakers of the law, he delivered them to be stoned."

"His second entry reads like this: about this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who performed surprising deeds and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Christ. And when, upon the accusation of the principal men among us, Pilate had condemned him to a cross, those who had first come to love him did not cease. He appeared to them spending a third day restored to life, for the prophets of God had foretold these things and a thousand other marvels about him. And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared."

What I want you to gather from this is that when it comes to the bible, and the things that happened in it, we're not looking at something like Game of Thrones where the characters and stories were pulled from the mind of an author. We're talking about concrete stuff.

The second reason I think that you can trust the bible as a lens for your life is this: Numbers.

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One of the ways that historians rate the authenticity of a text is by looking at copies and whether those copies agree with one another. This is common practice. So, what do we find:

PLATO

Number Of Copies: 7

Approximate Time Span Between Original And Copy: 1,200 Years

Accuracy: Too Few To Tell

CAESAR

Number Of Copies: 10

Approximate Time Span Between Original And Copy: 1,000 Years

Accuracy: Too Few To Tell

ARISTOTLE

Number Of Copies: 49

Approximate Time Span Between Original And Copy: 1,400 Years

Accuracy: Too Few To Tell

HOMER (Iliad)

Number Of Copies: 643

Approximate Time Span Between Original And Copy: 500 Years (almost half of others)

Accuracy: 95% Consistency

Homer is looking great compared to the others. Now let's look at The New Testament.

NEW TESTAMENT

Number Of Copies: 5,600

Approximate Time Span Between Original And Copy: 100 Years

Accuracy: 99.5% Consistency

When compared to other ancient historical accounts, the New Testament is by far the most reliable document we have. Also, the 5,600 copies I mentioned only include the copies we have in Greek. If you include the 19,000 other copies we have in the Syriac, Latin, Coptic, and Aramaic languages, you end up with over 24,000 copies of the New Testament!

Basically, the New Testament is more historically accurate than anything we have on Julius Caesar, Plato, Aristotle, and Homer. The documents that make up the Bible are reliable. We can count on them.

But, if you are like me, these facts help but they don't at least make the case.

For me it has been my experience of taking what happens here, in this text, and bringing it out there into the world. Like we said last week, when we do that, when we take what we find in this text, in this space, out into the world we create places where in the midst of all kinds of terrible things, heaven and earth meet.

Just a few weeks ago in Charlottesville, VA a group of KKK members and white supremacists held a rally where they preached hate. It was ugly. Violence ensued. people were hurt. But then,

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<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-artifacts/artifacts-and-the-bible/the-tel-dan-inscription-the-first-historical-evidence-of-the-king-david-bible-story/>

7:33p 3:00 Transition from message to communion

Just a few weeks ago in Charlottesville, VA a group of KKK members and white supremacists held a rally where they preached hate. It was ugly. Violence ensued. people were hurt. But then, people who follow Jesus decided to take what they learned here to the streets.

So pastors from all kinds of churches, walked arm in arm through the streets of charlottesville, VA and circled protestors, cared for people who were wounded, and prayed for the people causing the harm.

They created a place where heaven and earth met because they chose to believe that what the bible said was trustworthy and that their action would create that space--even in that moment.. Where God's presence was tangible.

In the gospels, Jesus constantly says to people who are on the edge of buying into what he is up to to "come and see." Almost without fail, once they follow Jesus and experience this heaven space he creates in the way he cares for people, they are changed.

The Bible is full of those stories, and one of those stories of Jesus creating a heaven space we can enter into is communion.

7:36p 4:00 Communion - Paul

Words of institution

Communion instructions and offering instructions

-four stations in the front.

7:40p 0:00 *Sinking Deep*

7:40p 5:00 Closing Prayer Challenge

God, sometimes our lives just seem to be out of focus. Things in our world don't make sense. people hurt each other. we hurt other people. God, give us the trust we need to come and see your story in the bible that gives us the way forward to address these issues. Make us passionate about making this story our story in our own lives and in the lives of everyone around us. help us to make real the prayer your son taught us to pray:

7:45p 1:00 Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

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7:46p **1:00** **Announcements - Chandler**

Making their way to the front right now are some people that want you to come and see some amazing opportunities to connect deeper with God through Fall Bash, Campus Faith Clubs, Mea getaway, and fields of faith.

Mascot Challenge!

Please, come up and get some information!

MEA Getaway

- o Fall Bash
- o Campus Faith Clubs
- o Fields of Faith
- o Back list sign up for small group

7:47p **1:00** **Benediction - Jason**

Please rise and receive this benediction:

Our lives are often out of focus. Sin has blurred our vision. But, God in his grace has given us a lens through which to see ourselves and the world. So, go, use this lens. See the world rightly.

Go in peace and serve the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Send Out

7:48p **5:00** **Spotify Playlist**

7:48p **48:00**

Speaker

Chandler Larson 