

A BRAVE NEW WORLD – Sermon Study
Part 3: “The Mob Is Almost Always Wrong”

BIG IDEA

The world can be influenced by mob mentality, but God gave us a blueprint for discovering truth.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:2 (NKJV) - *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

ICEBREAKER

We often learn more from failures than successes. What “failure story” have you learned from?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE MOB?

1. Some of the same people who shouted, “Hosanna, Hosanna!” when Jesus rode into Jerusalem ([John 12:12-13](#)) a few days later shouted, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” ([Luke 23:20-25](#)). **What caused the people to change their minds so quickly? Are we susceptible to any of the same factors?**

2. The Bible is filled with stories of imperfect people who God used mightily as well as stories of evil people. **Rather than cancelling history, how do we learn from people with a mixed past?**

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3. Pastor Mark compared “the mob” with “the crowd.” **What’s the difference between a mob and a crowd, especially when it pertains to learning posture? How do you know if you are in a mob or in a crowd?**

BLUEPRINT FOR DISCOVERING TRUTH – Read [Romans 12:2](#)

“Do not conform...”

4. **In which ways might we already be conforming to this world?** (e.g. consumption, viewing habits, attitude, etc.)

5. **What are the specific pressures that are exerted upon us which cause us to conform even when we don’t want to?** (e.g. peer pressure, financial concerns, etc.)

“...the pattern of this world...”

Matthew 23:23–25 (NLT) - *What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.* ²⁴ *Blind guides! You strain your water so you won’t accidentally swallow a gnat, but you swallow a camel!*

²⁵ *“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence!*

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6. Jesus had some very harsh words for the people of His time who unthinkingly followed traditions while missing the Truth (Jesus, who was right in front of them). **What are some contemporary issues/mindsets/trends that we need to examine more closely?** (e.g. How do we respond to immigrants? – [Leviticus 19:33–34](#))

Acts 17:11 (NKJV) - *These [the people of Berea] were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

7. **How do we take the qualities of the Bereans and apply them to being discerning in the present cultural push toward social indoctrination?**

“...be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

Joshua 4:1–7 (NKJV)

And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying: ²“Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, ³and command them, saying, ‘Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests’ feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.’”

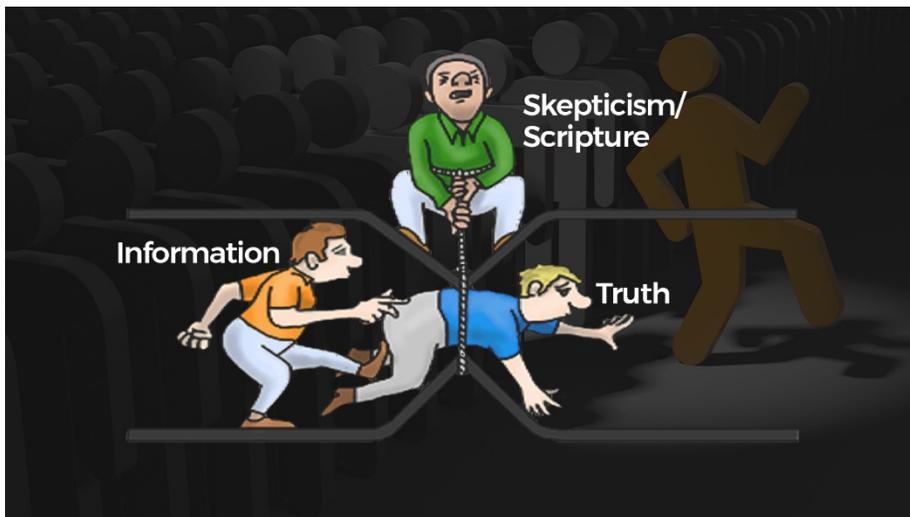
⁴Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe; ⁵and Joshua said to them: “Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, ⁶that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’ ⁷Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever.”

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8. In the Old Testament God urged the people to put up monuments and perpetuate rituals so that they would remember who He is and what He has done. **What are practical things that help us remember what God has done and who He is?**

Ephesians 4:20–24 (NIV) - *That, however, is not the way of life you learned²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds;²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

We see the model that Pastor Mark talked about in the above verses.



9. Not all skepticism is helpful. **What does a healthy skepticism that leads to truth look like?**

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10. What potential role do each of these things play in the moving from information to healthy truth?

- a) Our fellow believers
- b) Weekly sermons
- c) Personal study of God’s Word
- d) Listening to the Holy Spirit
- e) Other?

ACTIVATION

Share with your group a specific area in your life where you need to be less “conformed” and more “transformed” (e.g. how I view money, getting my identity from politics rather than from Jesus, my heart toward my neighbour, etc.). Take time to pray for each other.