

The Venues: Go Deep Notes
Sermons from Superheroes Series: Jessica Jones
November, 27 2016

Who is your favorite superhero and why?

Have you ever seen the Marvel's Netflix show "Jessica Jones"?

The Jessica Jones storyline focuses on what it means to be a victim and survivor of mind control. She struggles with PTSD, guilt, emotional issues, anger issues, dating issues, and she self medicates with alcohol.

Can you relate to any of those things?

Brainwashing: "That which manipulates and modifies a person's emotions, attitudes, and beliefs."

What do you think of when you think of being brainwashed?

1. Have I been brainwashed?

Brainwashing can occur in many ways - Media, news, culture, advertising, relationships, church, etc.

Describe a time when you were persuaded to think or act a certain way. Who/what was doing the brainwashing? What effect did it have on you? In what ways has the church brainwashed people? Why are we so easily told what to do, say, and think?

Read Mark 3:1-6

What is the religious abuse in this passage? How does Jesus respond?

If you have internet access, watch "Milgram Obedience Study" on YouTube. Psychologist Stanley Milgram wanted to know how the Nazis could follow through with orders to kill millions of people during the holocaust. Milgram's experiment reveals that 65% of people would administer lethal shocks to a person because a person in authority asked them to.

What would you do if you were a part of that experiment? Would you go all the way? Why did the majority of people administer lethal shocks? What does this say about our perception of authority? Why do we follow orders so easily?

Describe a time when you were made to do something you disagreed with by someone in "authority."

"It may be that we are puppets — puppets controlled by the strings of society. But at least we are puppets with perception, with awareness. And perhaps our awareness is the first step to our liberation." - Stanley Milgram

2. How do I retrain the brain?

What solution does Milgram's quote suggest?

Read Colossians 2:9-10.

What/who is our ultimate authority?

Read Romans 12:2 and Philipians 2:3-5

What is the mind of Christ like? How do we transform our minds and make our mind like the mind of Christ? How would different churches look if church leaders had the mind of Christ? How different would your home or job look?

Possible Group or Individual Prayer - Jesus, teach me to always be aware that You are my ultimate authority. When I'm being persuaded to think and act a certain way, help me to stop and compare what I'm hearing to the mind of Christ and to throw out any message that doesn't line up with You. Help me always choose to have the mind of Christ - a mind of humility, service, and love toward God and people.