

Blindness
1 John 3:10-11
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the dangers of being spiritually blind.

- Intro:
1. Have you ever had someone notice something you missed?
 - a. A spot on your shirt
 - b. Forget to close the gas cap?
 2. We often wonder how we miss such things. What else do we miss?

I. Blindness in man

A. Provoking instead of exhorting

1. Hannah provoked by her revival Peninnah (**1 Sam 1:4-7**)
 - a. How would God had viewed Hannah being encouraged by Peninnah instead of being provoked by her and being made to feel miserable?
2. Exhortation builds while provoking tears down, destroys and displeases God (**Heb 3:13, John 13:34**)

B. The Trouble with Comparisons

1. The sinful comparison of the Pharisee (**Lk 18:9-14**)
2. The illuminating comparisons the Lord makes (*Mt 6:1-4,5-8,14-15,16-18,19-21,24*)

II. Blindness towards God's Blessings

A. The blindness of some

1. The blindness of the offended (**Mt 15:12-14**)
2. Mankind has a problem with forgetfulness (**Ps 78:35**)

B. Being a servant is a blessing

1. Isaiah is a great example of a servant (**Isa 6:8**)
2. . Be a blessed servant not a thorn in the side for others
(Unfair criticism from uninvolved able-bodied members is behavior fitting of a Pharisee.)
 - a. **1 Jn 2:11**

III. Lessons for Us Today

A. Be a positive not a negative

1. Positively minded people attract others and encourage them in service to others and to God.

- a. The negative, rebel and hinder people from being who they could be for God and others.
- b. **Barnabas is remembered as a "Son of Encouragement". Are you known for being an encourager?**

2. Remember His awesome shepherding (**Ps 78:72**)

B. Improve your service to God

1. Be a servant (**Jn 13:3-5**)
2. Either help, exhort or move
 - a. The able-bodied help in service
 - b. Those who are limited exhort
 - c. Those who are pharisees stand in the way

Application & Conclusion:

1. How is your sight spiritually? Are you blind to some areas in your life?
2. Those who are too comfortable in their daily Christian life, sadly are those who have the worst “eyesight” of all.
3. How is your vision?
4. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11-12, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent & Pray: James 5:16, 1 John 1:9