



BLIND-SIDED BY BLIND-SPOTS

“If you could have just seen yourself; I wish you could have heard what you just said!”

Has anyone ever said those words to you?

Do you remember how you felt once your foolishness was pointed out?

Knowing ones self is extremely important for growing in faith. Your faith and hope rests with you and no one else. No one can grow for you, no one can believe for you, and no one can have faith within you; but you do have a Helper to guide you.

Pastor Rob says, “We need to understand the importance of WANTING to know the truth about ourselves.” We need to be open to the fact that there are areas of our behavior we are often blind to seeing, apart from the Holy Spirit’s supernatural ability to bring clarity, or an often less than gentle revelation from friends and family. Just because The Holy Spirit is in you does not mean He will automatically intervene when you are about to misstep or turn you into the most loveable person on Earth. This is a 2-way street. We need to seek Him. Pray often for God to search our heart. God will provide an escape and help you turn flesh¹ into fruit.”

David Blind-sided:

WITH EYES WIDE OPEN---David, BLINDED BY LUST AND SELF-ABSORPTION not only lusted after another man’s wife but meticulously attempted to cover it up ultimately forcing him to have that man killed to keep his “secret” safe.

WITH HIS EYES WIDE-OPEN DAVID WAS BLINDSIDED BY THE CONCENTRIC BLIND-SPOTS OF...

- 1) Lust (desire for sensuality outside of God’s best)
- 2) Fear (of being caught---Leviticus called for them both to die!)
- 3) Cascading Rationalizations (one sin requires a bigger one to cover up the previous one---heart is despitefully wicked, Jeremiah 17:9)

ROOTED IN...

- 4) Spiritual Laziness (he should have been w/ his army)
- 5) Self-absorption (he already had as many as 10 wives)
- 6) INGRATITUDE (*God had been with him and given him so much*)

Pastor Rob-“The real shame in David’s blind-siding...in David’s blind-spots was that everyone else who knew David and his life, not to mention God, could see them in plain sight. They were NOT HIDDEN from him. He simply chose NOT TO SEE them even with his eyes wide open.”

¹ The "works of the flesh" are things like idolatry and strife, and anger and envy, attitudes, not just immoral acts of the body.

“So, the real shame is that David’s blind-side was not so much like airliners being hijacked and used as missiles but rather more like vehicles getting stuck on Lake Shore Drive after 3 days of Snowmageddon warnings.”

“THE SAME IS TRUE OF FOR EACH OF US...NO ONE HERE NEED BE BLIND-SIDED BY SUCH BLIND-SPOTS. The forecasts for such personal denial and rationalization is clear, we need only to surrender our hearts, souls, mind and strength so our loving Heavenly Father can show us the **Better Way.**”

Are there personal attributes of yourself that you are not pleased with? Do you know what it is that’s at the root of what is displeasing?

Sometimes addictions and bad habits can be traced to an emotional need. We often hear about addictions and the collateral damage they cause. Most of us however are not coping with an addiction but instead choose to yield to bad habits, bad behavior and bad attitudes that are often more harmful to others than an addiction.

Are there certain bad habits or behaviors that you feel are driven by an emotional need? If so-what is that need?

*Matthew 13:15*¹⁵ For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.

Should we expect our friends (perhaps especially those in this group here tonight) to expose our behavior to us; should the behavior be called into the open, should we encourage that kind of accountability?

For many people, running from themselves is the easiest way to avoid confronting the truth. Rather than search their heart or seek spiritual guidance, they will turn to alcohol, drugs or simply withdraw into seclusion to hide. Sometimes it seems easier to escape thought and cloud matters of the mind to avoid challenging the deceit of the heart.

Jeremiah 17:9⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

Most of us who use Facebook are aware of the potential for it to be a positive social environment.

Have you ever seen a comment from someone that made you say to yourself “I can’t believe he/she said that?”

Matthew 18:6~“If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

Hebrews 4:11-12¹¹ Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Psalm 139: 23-24

- ²³ Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.



Search my heart Lord Jesus. Am I a follower or just a fan?

Did you know that our minds are actually hard-wired to lie for us and then give us a treat when we accept the lie? Yes, Dr. Westin and his team from Emory University have discovered we are not as honest with ourselves as we would like to think. It seems our minds are more concerned about security of our ego, our life rather than truth. Our minds will actually “bend” information to conform it to our belief structure rather than let it in unedited if it is going to cause us discomfort. Twisting the truth is better than the plain truth if it is going to cause us to move from what we are comfortable with. In other words, our minds and emotions like security more than truth, honesty and integrity. Jeremiah already knew what scientists are now discovering about our mind and its ability or lack thereof regarding truth: “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9)

Pastor Rob: “Just as it was with David, no matter how blessed we are, It is ingratitude that leads to our dissatisfaction; it is our ingratitude that leads us to sin and in our sin we try to in vain to hide.”

Square 1

HOW CAN I AVOID BEING BLIND-SIDED

WITH MY EYES WIDE OPEN? By following these four steps:

1. Seek to stir up a Genuine Spiritual Hunger (Ps. 139, Ps. 32)
2. Surround yourself with Wise Counsel (Ps. 24:6, Ro. 15:14)
3. Submit to Accountability (Eph 5:21, James 5:16)
4. Saturate yourself with Fellowship (Hebrews 3:13, 10:24-25 & Ecc 4:9-12)

This is the essence of LIFEGroups...this is why you are here.

General scriptures concerning “Self-examination”

Job 13:23; Psalms 4:4; 19:12; 26:2; 77:6; 119:59; 139:23, 24; Jeremiah 17:9; Lamentations 3:40; Haggai 1:7; Matthew 26:22; Mark 14:19; 1 Corinthians 11:27, 28, 31; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Galatians 6:3-5

