

## SPIRITUAL DEFECTS #1 "The Blind"

Lev 21:16-24

*Puzzling scripture: Lev 21:16-24 Those who are not to minister in the temple, and a list of physical defects. Obviously not speaking of literal physical defects: The physical of the OT is the spiritual of the NT. We're going to go through the whole passage & learn some lessons about the things that will hinder us from ministering as men of God.*

### I. THE TRUTH OF DISQUALIFICATIONS

#### A. Our scripture deals with the Levites/tribe of Levi

1. The issue of Calling: The choice of God – the Levites had no choice about their birth

a. Called to minister for God – to people *Mat 4:19 he said unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

#### B. But our scripture deals with disqualification

1. He some people are called & should minister – but they can't/they are disqualified

a. *Lev 21:18 No man who has any defect may come near...*

2. It is possible that what we are called to do/have talent to do – we render ourselves unfit for ministry

a. *1 Cor 9:27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. (disqualified in the race/games)* b. *Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.*

#### C. This is not dealing so much with the issue of sin – our salvation

1. They were not morally disqualified *Leviticus 21:22 He may eat the bread of his God, both the most holy and the holy;*

2. Many times the focus is on ability: *I can sing/act/speak/preach* or desire: *I want to preach/be sent out...*

a. Priests w/defects: They could still physically lift the offerings

3. Defects - visible picture of what we are as men; *Character is what you are on the inside*

a. Some character is visible to others – some is hidden/known only to us/to our wives

1. *Blind/Hunchbacked vs. Stones/testicles*

4. Many of these have to do with things that hinder our credibility with other people

a. *A preaching dwarf...hard to accept/respect* b. *1 Timothy 3:7 Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*

1. *Complaints: pastors who scream at people/tell personal details over the pulpit/in debt; We can't follow him!*

#### D. God is not asking for/expecting perfection

1. The hope of defects is that God is a healer: NT/Jesus ministry – he made them whole

a. Blind men/withered arm/lame/leprosy: Would have been disqualified to minister: Healed/whole!

2. For us: God can heal us – but we have to see the problem first!

a. *We will go through each issue so we can identify ourselves*

### II. THE BLIND

#### A. Great problem of those who want to minister: They don't have a true heart/love for people

1. Selfishness/self-centeredness blinds us to the reality of other people's needs

a. *Rich man passed by Lazarus/beggar every day – and never saw his need*

b. *Disciples response to human need: Mark 6:36 send them away...(so they won't bother us!)*

2. Requires an orientation of our lives/vision towards others

a. Shepherd's rod/staff: Used to inspect sheep as they pass under/past the wool to see the skin

3. *Do you notice visitors come in? Do you notice when people are missing? When people are hurting/going through something?*

a. Particular times of need: New Converts - Missing people – Hurting: Death/sickness/reversal

1. *Prov 27:23 Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds;*

#### B. There are consequences to blindness

1. **We miss God's heart/what God is doing:** Elder brother in father's house – but far from Father's heart

a. *Matt 15:32 I have compassion on the multitude...* b. *John 4:35 lift up your eyes and see the harvest...*

2. **We will struggle to be effective with people:** People can tell who loves them/who cares!

a. *You will struggle to draw people to yourself – so God can help them*

3. **This blocks the favor of God:**

a. *Ezek 34:10 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand,*

### III. HEALING OUR EYES

#### A. Good news from the Bible: God is able to heal blind eyes! *Luke 4:18 ...to open the eyes of the blind...*

1. **We need to repent:** This is displeasing to God – repent of our selfishness

2. We need to ask God to give us love for people/eyes for people

a. This does not come naturally – we need to ask God to give it to us/change us!

1. *Pastor Mitchell told me: Pray that God will give you a burden for souls, and a love for people.*

b. *Turning point in my life: I knew I didn't have – began to pray for/actively get involved in meeting needs*