

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/actively get involved in meeting needs*