

SPIRITUAL DEFECTS #8 "Defective Eyes"

Lev 21:16-20 James 2:1-9

William Booth was kicked out of the Methodist Church for bringing low-class people into church and seating them in the pews reserved for the wealthy. Series: Lev 21:16-24 Those not to minister in the temple - physical defects. Physical of the OT is the spiritual of the NT. things that will hinder us from ministering as men of God. Today: Defective Eyes. Speaking of the issue of partiality.

I. THE POTENTIAL FOR PARTIALITY

A. Foundational truth of life: What we see determines our entire lives

1. What we see determines what we do: Vision determines action!
2. Reverse is also true: Blindness produces weakness/inability

a. Athletes/craftsmen begin losing vision – unable to perform/compete anymore

B. Our scrip is speaking about ministry: Ministry is all about people!

1. Our scrip is a recognition that we can have faulty vision – towards people V20 blemish/defect in his eye...
2. Great problem of vision in ministry is partiality (2 definitions)

a. Biased to one party; inclined to favor one party in a cause...not indifferent

b. Affecting a part only; not general or universal; not total: Implies dividing or separating things apart from the whole.

C. Simple truth: We do not look at all people the same!

1. We look at people and make biased judgments for/against

a. James 2:1-4 My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

2. Various reasons why we make partial judgments

a. Family/race/finances/whether we like them/whether they like us/what they can do for us/do against us

D. 2 main manifestations of partiality

1. **Blindness:** We fail to see unhealthy things in the people we prefer

a. 1 Samuel 12:3 ... from whose hand have I received any bribe with which to blind my eyes?

1. Totally fail to see: My child is an angel...they would never do that

2. Being unwilling to see: If I see it/have to deal with it – it will be too expensive/too much trouble (Doesn't matter – see B.2.b.)

b. Disputes: My guy has to be right...he's my guy!

2. **Favoring:** James 2:3 and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place..."

a. Give attention that others don't get b. Give position/favor that others don't get

II. THE PRICE OF PARTIALITY

A. Partial people make bad decisions

1. They choose the wrong people: People who ultimately destroy them!

a. Hezekiah shows Babylonians all his treasure: They probably were impressive; They wound up conquering the nation!

1. Religious/wealthy people without character 2. Dand/Huch put 5 men on council; carnal/not filled w/HS – split the church

B. Partial people cause offense to other people

1. People become angry when they see partiality!

a. Gen 37:4 when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all them, they hated him & couldn't speak peaceably to him.

2. This causes us to lose credibility: They don't believe you

a. They won't bring truth to you; Why? He'll just favor them/won't listen b. They will not receive the good things you say or do

C. Partial people displease God

1. Partiality is so unlike God Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.

2. He is displeased when we disdain people he loves and ruin His work by our partiality

a. James 2:9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

3. God will not bless partiality – He actually will work against us!

a. 1 Samuel 3:13 For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them.

III. HEALING PARTIALITY

A. Partiality is a sin that must be repented of!

1. We need to acknowledge our bias/pride/unfair judgments Tell God we know this is displeasing to Him

2. We need to ask God to heal our eyes: To be impartial is a miracle; Only God can heal blinded eyes!

a. Good news: God does heal blind eyes!

B. We need to examine our vision

1. Are there people we treat better/speak nicer to/have more time for...

2. We have to discipline ourselves to be impartial

a. Speak to the same/treat the same/listen to the same...