

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

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Weekend of July 12, 2020

Blind Spots; Seeking Justice from the Inside Out

INTRODUCTION

- What is one thing that makes you unique?
- Describe when you first became aware of different cultures in the world around you.
- As we move into discussing and processing all that we have learned this week from the message, let's begin by asking God to prepare our hearts to listen and learn. Let's ask him to allow our hearts to overflow for all humanity who are made in the image of God.

Here are some verses to ponder as we pray.

For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.
¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.
¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them! Psalm 139:13-17

INTO THE BIBLE

Rodney began his message by saying that this series, called Blind Spots, is intended to be a launching pad as opposed to a landing spot.

- What might be some examples of the ways in which this series could potentially remain a landing spot?



- What are some steps we could take to prepare our hearts to receive this series as a launching pad?

Read Psalm 139:23-24

- According to these verses, what are some of the things that God is able to do?
- Rodney explained that in Hebrew for the word "search" (verse 23) is to "investigate." What are some of the ways might God investigate our hearts?

In discussing these verses from Psalm 139, Rodney stated that David understood that in order for his horizontal relationships to be a reflection of his vertical relationship with God, he (David) had to give God all of himself...including giving God permission to search his heart and lead him. "This has to be the posture of our hearts as we journey with God together for truth, understanding and healing. Humility, vulnerability and accountability must be our companions."

- How would you describe your vertical relationship with God in our current climate and culture?
- In what ways could our vertical relationship with God affect us horizontally—the way we process, live, respond, and reflect God in the area of racial justice?

In talking about how God searches our hearts, Dr. Dharius Daniels said: "God doesn't show us to condemn us, but to correct us. We can't fix it until we face it."

- Being honest with yourself, what is one area of the issue of racial justice that might need to be revealed and/or corrected in your heart and mind?

Rodney mentioned three areas that can create Blind Spots:

1. **Disconnection:** not connected to something or someone so it's difficult to relate to them.
The Key to this Blind Spot is Intimacy.
2. **Denial:** Not believing or accepting that there is a problem.
The Key to this Blind Spot is Open-Minded Humility.
3. **Justification:** We have been hurt or wronged by others therefore we feel we have a right to remain angry, resentful, or bitter.
The Key to this Blind Spot is Forgiveness.



The next step is moving toward **Repentance**: A change of mind that leads to a change of heart that leads to a change in action.

- Which of these three “causes of Blind Spots” tugs at your heart? In what ways could you press in to that cause and seek to grow, learn, and change?

“No matter what race we are, as the body of Christ, it is our responsibility to lead the way for racial justice for all. And I believe that in doing so, God’s desire is that we start with our own hearts. To look within, before reaching out.”

APPLICATION

- The title of this series is *Blind Spots, Seeking Justice from The Inside Out*. What does the term “inside out” mean to you in regards to seeking justice? What might that look like for you personally?
- Rodney quoted: “Before you can take a stand, you must first have a seat.” What might be a first step you could take to “have a seat” and to seek to listen and understand?
- In speaking about Blind Spots, what is one thing that you don’t know or understand regarding racial justice that you would like to learn more about? What might be a first humble step you could take to learn more about that issue?

In closing, we looked at these verses a few weeks ago, but it might be helpful for us to look and ponder and meditate and pray these verses again this week:

My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn’t know the first thing about God, because God is love—so you can’t know him if you don’t love. This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they’ve done to our relationship with God.

My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and his love becomes complete in us—perfect love!

1 John 4:7-12 (The Message)