

## **Blind Spots**

Judges 8:30 – 9:24

### **Introduction:**

- A. Physical blind spots
  - 1. Buses are the s\_\_\_\_\_ form of ground transportation.
  - 2. Bus mirrors are designed to eliminate blind spots, but the side mirror c\_\_\_\_\_ a huge one.
- B. Ethical blind spots
  - 1. Worshippers of Molech saw nothing wrong with passing their children through f\_\_\_\_\_ (2 Kgs 23:10)
  - 2. In today's study we will see ethical blind spots in the lives of the people of Israel.
- C. Questions to consider
  - 1. Do you and I have ethical blind spots?
  - 2. Do groups of Christians have ethical blind spots?
  - 3. If we have blind spots are we doomed to be forever blind or is there a solution?

### **The problem with blind spots**

- A. We cannot see them o\_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. Gideon's blind spot – he had several w\_\_\_\_\_ and one concubine (Jdg 8:30,31)
    - a. This was not the u\_\_\_\_\_ lifestyle of the common Jew
      - 1. The most wives we see that any descendant of Abraham had was \_\_\_\_, although they may have had a concubine or two.
      - 2. There is one law in the Law of Moses which deals with a man having \_\_\_ wives (Deut 21:15).
      - 3. Gideon is the f\_\_\_\_ Jew on record to have several wives.
    - b. This was the usual lifestyle of p\_\_\_\_\_ political leaders for the purpose of preserving their dynasty and/or making alliances with other countries.
  - 2. In US history, one blind spot that the founders had that we all can clearly see was s\_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3. Do you or I have a blind spot?
- B. We tend to not l\_\_\_\_\_ to other viewpoints
  - 1. Abimelech and the people of the town of Shechem
    - a. Abimelech was the only son that was not from any of his wives but from a c\_\_\_\_\_ who was from Shechem (Jdg 8:31)
    - b. Abimilech convinced his mother's household to petition the leaders of Shechem to have one ruler rather than 70 and that

Abimelech be that ruler since he was their r \_\_\_\_\_  
(Jdg 9:1-3)

- c. The town paid Abimelech 70 pieces of silver which he used to hire k \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 4)
  - d. All of Abimelech's brothers were executed on a s \_\_\_\_\_, except for Jotham because he successfully hid himself (v. 5)
  - e. The town made Abimelech their k \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 6)
2. Jotham went on a mountain top to point out the blind spot of political m \_\_\_\_\_ by telling a parable (vv. 7-15). They did not listen.
3. Are believers in Christ doomed to their blind spots?

### **The solution to blind spots**

A. After Jotham told the parable, he applied the parable using two words that offer a solution to ethical blind spots (v 16)

1. T \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. The Hebrew word has various meanings – honor, truth, stability, trustworthiness and the c \_\_\_\_\_ of this passage does not help us decide which definition was meant.
  - b. Hebrew speaking scholars translated the entire Old Testament into Greek and in this verse used a word that o \_\_\_\_\_ means truth.
2. M \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. The Hebrew word has various meanings – integrity, sincerity, perfect, upright, complete, and more. Again the context does not help us.
  - b. The Greek translation uses a word that is usually translated as p \_\_\_\_\_ but often means maturity.

B. Defining the solutions

1. Truth
  - a. We have placed our faith in who Jesus is and what He has done for us based solely on what Jesus has s \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 20:28; 26:28; Jn 3:16).
  - b. How do we know what Jesus has said? – The New Testament is that record.
    - 1) Matt 24:35 – Jesus said that His words would never p \_\_\_\_\_ away.
    - 2) Jn 14:26 – Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would bring all His t \_\_\_\_\_ to the memory of His apostles
    - 3) Eph 2:20 – the church has been built on the f \_\_\_\_\_ of the apostles and prophets, Jesus being the cornerstone.

## 2. Maturity

a. Matt 5:48 reads, *be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

1) The context is not talking about perfect living but mature living.

a) If you only love those who love you – tax collectors do this (v. 46)

b) If you only love your brothers – Gentiles do this (v. 47)

2) Believers in Christ are to do the mature thing – love all people even one's enemies (v. 44).

b. Was it mature for:

1) Abimelech to eliminate his brothers to eliminate their authority?

2) For the people to choose Abimelech to be king because he was their ruler?

## Some blind spots of believers

### A. Abortion

1. Some believers elevate a woman's right to choose above the life of her child.

2. What is the truth?

a. Gen 9:6 – taking a human life is wrong

b. Ex 21:22,23 – life inside the womb is equal in value to life outside the womb.

3. What is the mature action in dealing with an unwanted pregnancy?

### B. Treating people poorly

1. Truth –

2. Maturity –

### C. Your conduct toward others when gathered together

1. Toward visitors who come to church?

2. Toward those with whom you have little in common?

3. Toward those whom you see acting inappropriately?

## Conclusion

Let us determine to:

1) Live according to the truth of God's word

2) Live in a mature way

3) To help one another to live by the truth and to act maturely.