



gracefellowship

Blind Spots
August 11, 2019
Distraction

:: Luke 12:35-48

This morning we are going to close our teaching series on blind spots by looking at one final danger zone of our faith. Over the past three weeks we have talked about the blind spots of

- a. Hypocrisy- saying one thing but doing another.
- b. Greed- wanting more and more without thought toward being rich toward God by being generous toward others.
- c. Worry- being divided in heart and mind, not trusting God to take care of our most basic needs.

The final blind spot Jesus identifies is distraction.

Do you ever find yourself getting distracted? All the time, right?! There are a million things that pull at us for attention. We live in a era where all of us can be reached at any moment by call, text, FB messenger, Snap Chat, FaceTime, email, and whatever other app of the day is out there connecting you to the rest of the world. It's difficult to stay focused for any length of time. Technology isn't the enemy, though, is it? We can be distracted by all kinds of other things.

Illustration: When we lived in TX and the kids were really little there were two events going on in Fort Worth on the same weekend: Passion Conference and Youth Ministry Lab. Heather was volunteering with Passion and a lot of my friends were in town for YM Lab, that meant I was taking care of the boys for the weekend. To be able to meet up with my friends and go to dinner I had to take both boys with me- Grayson was a baby and had gotten a really bad sinus infection and Josiah was a 3 year old. We met my friends at Cousin's BBQ- a Fort Worth staple. As we are walking across the parking lot into the restaurant I look over and see Louie Giglio walking beside us! Louie is the founder of Passion Ministries and I had met him a couple times, so I felt comfortable to say hello as we walked in. Louie went through the line while I waited on my friends. Once we went through the line, we were talking and catching up after not having seen each other for a couple years. I got distracted by our conversation and after a few minutes someone asked, "Where's Josiah?" I was holding Grayson, but Josiah

was nowhere to be seen! He had slipped off into the restaurant and I couldn't see him in the crowd. After a panicked moment one of my friends said, "There he is!" and pointed at a table across the restaurant. I looked and Josiah was standing beside a table talking to Louie Giglio! I guess he felt comfortable going up to him because I had spoken to him in the parking lot! I don't know what 3 year old Josiah said to Louie that day, but I'm sure it was a fascinating conversation!

The point is, I had become distracted and lost focus and then lost my son! I had one job: watch the kids for the weekend!

Distraction becomes the enemy of watchfulness.

That's a scary proposition as a parent. It's really scary when you're riding with a distracted driver. But Jesus also points out that distraction in the Christian life causes a lot of destructive behavior.

:: Luke 12:35-40

**35 "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning,
36 like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet,
so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for
him.**

**37 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching
when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have
them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.**

**38 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if
he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak.**

**39 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour
the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.**

**40 You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour
when you do not expect him."**

**In the first sentence of Jesus' teaching he gives us three actions to follow
as His servants:**

- 1. Be dressed ready...**
- 2. ...waiting for the Master...**
- 3. immediately open the door for Him**

When Jesus talked about worry in the last section of this chapter He told the disciples that God is giving us the Kingdom and we should store up our treasure in heaven. The reason he said that was wrapped up in this phrase: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Jesus wants us focused on heaven so we don't get so wrapped up in the things of this world that can distract us from our real home! If your treasure is with Jesus in heaven then your focus in this life will be eternal things. If you believe this world is the most important thing, you will be distracted from living your life with Kingdom impact in mind.

If this world is most important to you then...
...you won't make time to be disciplined or to make disciples.
...you'll live for your personal glory and not for God's glory.
...you will be distracted from watching for your Master's return.

But I love what Jesus says to encourage us to be watching for his return and living with our eyes fixed on eternity rather than distracted by this life; look at verse 37-38:

37 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.

38 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak.

In the parable, Jesus gives us a setting in which this is taking place as a way to give us context. He says the master went away to a wedding. Weddings in our culture may be an afternoon or evening affair, a few hours of your life. But weddings in the Hebrew culture were often week long affairs- sometimes longer! Jesus says the servants should be found waiting for their master to return and watching for him, because they don't know exactly when that's going to be.

The word watching carries the weight of giving strict attention to something and actively looking out.

Jesus says when the master returns he switches roles with the watchful servants and allows them to sit at the table while he serves!

- Can you imagine being served by Jesus?

Our faithful work for the Kingdom will be rewarded!

We have to ask ourselves how we want to be found when Jesus returns. And we have to be watchful because he warns us that His return will come when people don't expect it. Look at what Jesus says in verse 39-40:

39 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.

40 You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

I don't know about you, but that conjures up images of Kevin McAlister in Home Alone! While the rest of his neighborhood got robbed blind by the Sticky Bandits during Christmas vacation, Kevin knew the bad guys were coming and turned his house into a giant booby trap!

What we don't realize is that when we aren't living in expectation of the return of

Jesus and keeping His Kingdom at the center of our lives, Satan is robbing us blind!

- We may be making good money, but losing our families.
- We may have all the latest gadgets, but no deep relationships.
- You may be able to chase your dreams, but realize you missed out on eternal blessings.

Being spiritually distracted results in pursuing all the world has to offer and in the end realizing it didn't mean that much.

:: Mark 8:36

36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

When it comes to Jesus' teachings, He often gives us warnings to make sure we understand how serious he is about these things. Look at verses 41-48

:: Luke 12:41-48

41 Peter asked, "Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?"

42 The Lord answered, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time?"

43 It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns.

44 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

45 But suppose the servant says to himself, 'My master is taking a long time in coming,' and he then begins to beat the other servants, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk.

46 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

47 "The servant who knows the master's will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows.

48 But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

The servant who is ready for the return of the master is not only served by the master, but will be put in charge of all the master's possessions. But notice the consequences for being blind to the reality of the master's return: there is punishment that fits the crime.

Jesus says one of the servants looked at his situation, determined that the master had been gone a long time and began to assume power, beating the other servants. He was distracted by ambition and power and hurt other people as a result.

You may be sitting there thinking that you would never abuse other people just because you don't live in watchful expectation of the return of Jesus. But when we are distracted from the reality of Jesus' imminent return we don't live with any sense of urgency to tell other people about the salvation offered to them through Jesus- an offer that goes away once He has returned. We don't physically hurt anyone, but we are part of the problem of them being condemned eternally.

Is there a sense of urgency that you feel in telling someone you know who is not a disciple of Jesus about the life-giving hope that can only be found in a relationship with Him?

:: 2 Peter 3:9

9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

When we are living for eternity we want other people to experience eternity with us in heaven. When the things of this world distract us, we have a temporary focus that misses the higher calling to engage people with the gospel. That's a dangerous blind spot in our faith journeys.

Disobedience always results in discipline.

The punishment will match the offense, but Jesus is clear that punishment is coming to those who are too distracted to watch and wait for His coming.

And then Jesus ends by saying:

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Stan Lee is famous for putting these words into Spider-Man's mouth: "With great power comes great responsibility." I bet you didn't know he stole that straight from Jesus! From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded.

We have been given much in our relationship with Jesus. We can't afford to live as though this world is home.

Here are the final notes for you to take this morning:

How do we combat against the blind spot of distraction?

1. Live in community that encourages one another to focus on the Kingdom.

2. Memorize Colossians 3:1-3

1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

The beautiful thing about knowing you have blind spots is you become more conscience to look for them and guard against them. Our blind spots don't have to wreck our lives. Keep your eyes open!

- Pray