

Dreaming With Hidden Blind Spots (Matthew 13:1-3a,10-11; NKJV)

June 28, 2020

Big Question: Can You See Beyond Your Blind Spots?

1 On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. 2 And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. 3 Then He spoke many things to them in **parables**, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow.

10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

- **A.** Jesus was teaching in a **hostile** environment (Matthew 9:34, 12:4, 12:22-37)
- **B.** Jesus taught in parables to **quietly communicate** to his disciples (13:1-3a, 10-11)

Question: What can't God say in front of you? (Are you going to be the one left out of the conversation because you cannot hear certain things?)

Introduction: Three Blind Spots that Jesus anticipated some would face

- A. Ignorance (They would be highly uninformed)
- **B. Depth** (They would be very shallow in their thinking)
- C. Greed, Impatience, and Focus (They would easily be distracted by the things around them)

I. Blinded by Ignorance

(Matthew 13:3-4; NKJV)

3 Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seed fell by the **wayside**; and the birds came and devoured them.

Explanation of the Wayside Principle: Matthew 13:18-19; NKJV

• 18 "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone **hears** the word of the kingdom, and **does not understand** it, then **the wicked one comes and snatches away** what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside

This is a category called "The Wayside Followers"

- 1. There is a sower (Someone who invest and makes an effort to grow something)
- 2. There is a hearer (Someone who listens to what sowing or teaching investors has to say)
- **3.** There is a **goal** (The Sower's singular purpose is to invest in the soil of the hearer)
- 4. There is a wicked one (Someone who is determined to keep the hearer uninformed)

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II. Blinded by Wrong Assumptions That Were Uninformed

- A. I assumed sometimes that walking by faith meant embracing unnecessary and unwise risk (Debt, Covid-19, Exhaustion, Toxic Relationships, and Unhealthy Career Habits)
- **B.** I assumed that walking by faith in a non-profit defined assignment did not require the building of strong cash reserves, assets and long-term options. Those who did pursue these options were potential lovers of money more than lovers of God (2 Timothy 3:2).
- **C.** I assumed that those who walked by faith were more **morally** committed than those who were unchurched.

Note Proverbs 14:34: "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people..."

- **D.** I assumed we would have the same church model.
- E. I assumed we would have a lot more time to adapt to technology and change.
- F. I assumed spiritual leaders were clear and practically insightful about every aspect of life.

III. Two Closing Questions That Can Help Us See

- 1. Are we willing to face our blind spots?
- 2. How much are we willing to know?

Next Time: Dreaming Without Depth

Big Question: How deep are you willing to go? **Side Question:** Are you a shallow up-close? (The Fig Tree example, Matthew 21:18-22)

Read Ahead: Matthew 13:5-6 Some fell on **stony places**, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because **they had no depth of earth**. 6 But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away