

RADICAL



Blind Spot

Luke 16:19-31

Big Idea: There's a subtle, creepy, sly enemy of *authentic* Christian living that sneaks into our life and wreaks havoc. If you've ever wondered if there's more to Christianity than you're experiencing, you're right. In *Radical*, we'll talk about what may be lacking and how to get it in your life.

Bottom Line: "You cannot love without giving."

Review:

In the first week of *Radical* we asked a question: Is Jesus *really* worth abandoning everything for?

In the second week, we learned the reward of the Gospel is God Himself.

In the third week, we learned the importance of God-reliance vs. self-reliance.

In the fourth week, we learned our highest aim and goal is to use our life and everything in it to glorify God by leading people to salvation.

Last week we learned Healthy disciples make disciples. Share your faith, so you will gain a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ and have beautiful feet!

Introduction:

Today, I want to confront an unpleasant reality in many of our lives. This reality is one of the main creepy little things that keep us from authentic living. It's so sly and deceptive that we usually do not even see it or notice it. It slithers between us and God and wreaks havoc in our spiritual life.

Ultimately, it causes us to ignore God's will for our life and causes us to justify our actions—thinking, all the time, that we're doing the right thing!

First, let me remind you that God doesn't want something from you. He wants something for you.

So, with that, let's jump into our lesson today.

Struggle:

John MacArthur reminds us, “[Money] is an index to a person’s character, so much so that people’s view of money is evidence of whether or not their salvation is genuine.”

See the contrast between Zaccheus in Luke 19 and the rich young ruler in Matthew 19.

What people do with their money reflects their life priorities. Luke 12:34 says, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Love of money is idolatry.

Study 1 Timothy 6:10, 17.

How do you know if you love money?

It’s quite simple.

If you disobey God concerning your money, what/who do you love most?

I’m going to challenge you today to answer that question. Be honest with yourself. Do not be deceived. At least you’ll know where you stand.

Truth:

Luke 12:15-21

¹⁵“Then he said to them, ‘**Watch out!** Be on your **guard against** all kinds of **greed**; a man’s **life** [zōē (meaningful, purposeful, eternal life) not bios (existence; biological life)] does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.’”

¹⁶And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop.

¹⁷He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’”

¹⁸“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store [hoard] all my grain and my goods.

¹⁹And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’”

²⁰“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’”

²¹This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.

There is no bigger fool than one who does not prepare for the life to come.

Matthew 6:19-21, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth...But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The location of your treasure reveals the true condition of your heart.

God commands you to return a small portion of everything He blesses you with. It's about your heart. God gives you 100% and commands you to return a portion (a tithe) of 10%; for a very specific reason ... to constantly remind you to put Him first.

Deuteronomy 14:23 (TLB), “The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.”

To trust God is to obey God, to put Him first in every area of your life.

Let's talk about the promises of God surrounding the tithe.

A tithe literally means “first tenth.” To obey God is to give the “first tenth,” not the second tenth, third tenth, or the leftover tenth.

If you don't want to obey God, just own it; don't excuse it.

If you choose to obey God and put Him first in your life, then tithe, and notice the promises of blessing in Malachi 3 as a result of that decision.

Malachi 3:7-11

⁷“Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty.

“But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’”

⁸“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me.”

“But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’”

“In tithes and offerings.”

⁹“You are under a curse – the whole nation of you – because you are robbing me.”

¹⁰“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”

¹¹“I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit,” says the LORD Almighty.

¹¹(KJV) “And I will rebuke the **devourer** for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field,” saith the LORD of hosts.

Friends, you can't afford not to tithe!

Application:

Stop it! Repent of putting God in second place.

Give the whole tithe to the Lord.

Restrain the devourer in your life.

Glorify God with your treasure.

Step out in faith and take the Six-Month Tithe Challenge.

Next Steps:

- Memorize Luke 12:21
- Pastor, Sign Me up for the Six-Month Tithe Challenge