

Summary

In this sermon titled 'Spiritual Sight,' Pastor Kevin begins a six-week series focused on gaining spiritual vision to see the world as God sees it. He emphasizes that we're in a spiritual battle, not a political one, and that Satan blinds unbelievers while Christians' vision can become clouded. The sermon examines four causes of spiritual blindness through Jesus' interaction with the Pharisees in Mark 7: traditionalism (valuing rituals over mission), tribalism (elevating loyalty to smaller groups over God's kingdom), impression management (living for others' approval rather than authentically), and selective obedience (looking for loopholes in God's commands).

Pastor Kevin highlights that spiritual sight comes through both revelation (when God shows us truth) and repentance (when we act on that truth). He emphasizes that the problem with evil isn't external but internal - from our hearts. The solution is daily repentance, asking God to reveal our blind spots and brokenness, then turning to Jesus whose cross provides forgiveness and whose resurrection gives us power to overcome sin. The sermon concludes with a powerful example of the church supporting a bilingual congregation called Mosaico through generous giving.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your Word today, we ask that You would open our eyes to see the way things really are. Just as Pastor Kevin prayed, help us to see Your glory that we might love You more, to see Your truth that we might walk in it, and to see others through Your eyes that we might love like You. Lord, we acknowledge that we need Your revelation and the courage to repent. May each person in this group be open to what You want to teach them today, and may our discussion draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

When was the last time you misplaced something important (like keys, phone, wallet) and how did you feel when you finally found it?

Key Verses

1. 2 Corinthians 4:4
2. Ephesians 1:18
3. Mark 7:6-7
4. Mark 7:20-23
5. Isaiah 30:15

Questions

1. Pastor Kevin mentioned that spiritual sight is a gift from God that we can take for granted. In what areas of your life might you be spiritually nearsighted or blind right now?

2. The sermon identified four causes of spiritual blindness: traditionalism, tribalism, impression management, and selective obedience. Which of these do you struggle with most and why?
3. Jesus said that what defiles us comes from within our hearts, not from outside. How does this challenge the way you view your own struggles with sin?
4. What's the difference between having traditions and falling into traditionalism? How can we maintain helpful spiritual practices without making them more important than the mission?
5. Pastor Kevin talked about needing 'binoculars not blinders' when it comes to seeing God's kingdom. Where might God be working that you've been blind to because it's outside your 'tribe' or comfort zone?
6. How does 'impression management' show up in your spiritual life? In what ways do you find yourself performing for others rather than living authentically before God?
7. The sermon emphasized that love doesn't have loopholes. Where might you be looking for exceptions to Jesus' command to love God and love others?
8. Pastor Kevin practices daily repentance by asking God to reveal his blind spots. What might a regular practice of revelation and repentance look like in your life?

Life Application

This week, commit to a daily practice of asking God for both revelation and repentance. Each morning, spend 5-10 minutes in prayer asking, "God, would you help me see the things I can't see? Would you reveal my blind spots, my pride, my brokenness?" Then, as God reveals areas that need attention, immediately repent and ask for His help to change. Keep a simple journal of what God shows you and how you respond. Remember Pastor Kevin's advice: "Glance at your sin and gaze at the cross." End each time by focusing on Jesus' love and power to transform you.

Key Takeaways

1. Spiritual blindness can come from four sources: traditionalism (valuing rituals over mission), tribalism (elevating loyalty to smaller groups over God's kingdom), impression management (living for others' approval), and selective obedience (looking for loopholes in God's commands).
2. God wants to move in our lives through revelation (showing us truth we couldn't see before) and repentance (our response to that revelation).
3. The problem with evil is not external but internal - it comes from our hearts. Jesus listed 13 evils that come from within, showing our need for transformation from the inside out.
4. Daily repentance is essential for spiritual growth. We need to regularly ask God to reveal our blind spots and brokenness so we can turn from sin and turn to Him.
5. The power to overcome sin comes not from our own strength but through Jesus - forgiveness through the cross and power through the resurrection.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for Your grace that opens our eyes to see the truth about ourselves and about You. Forgive us for the ways we've allowed traditionalism, tribalism, impression management, and selective obedience to blind us to Your kingdom work. This week, give us courage to ask You for revelation about our blind spots and the strength to repent when You show us our sin. Help us to glance at our sin but gaze at Your cross, finding both forgiveness and power there. Use us to extend Your kingdom as we learn to see others and ourselves through Your eyes. May we be people who celebrate where You're working, even when it's outside our comfort zones. In Your powerful name we pray, amen.