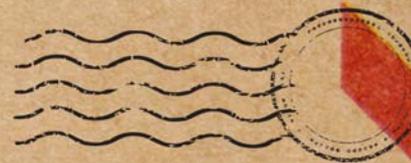


Wish you were **HERE**

May 28 & 29

Blind Spots

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Introduction

The last four weeks of the *Wish You Were Here* series have helped us discover ways we can move our relationships from where they are to where we wish they would be. Relationships are central to building God's Kingdom, loving His people and refining our character to look more like Him. It's important to keep our relationships with others healthy so we're able to connect ourselves and each other to Jesus. This week's teaching tackles the issue of blind spots in our relationships. Most of us have them, and we have two choices: deny they're there or take steps to remove them. Pastor Chip uses examples of three relationships to help us take a closer look at parts of our character, beliefs and actions that can hide in our blind spots. In doing so, we have the chance to move our relationships with others to where we wish they would be.

Discussion

1. The first big blinder mentioned in this weekend's teaching was **pride**. Consider what fears pride might be rooted in [e.g., a fear of being wrong or seen as weak]. How might pride and these fears get our relationships stuck?
2. The second big blinder mentioned was **deceit**, which was defined as "believing lies about God, ourselves and others." **Read Luke 18:18-27**. What lie did this ruler believe that kept him from doing what Jesus asked? What would the ruler give up by believing that lie?
3. Which of the two blinders come up most frequently in your life? Are you more likely to deny areas you could grow for the sake of pride or because of a lie you believe?
4. God's Word, the Holy Spirit and good relationships with trustworthy people were three relationships mentioned to help us remove blind spots in ourselves and our relationships. Share with the group how you see each impact your life and relationships.

Think About It

Whether it's because we deny reality or let deceit ring louder than truth, we all have blind spots. When we take an honest pause, we see how our relationships with other people can suffer when we're not investing time studying God's Word or engaging with the Holy Spirit. Isolating ourselves from those relationships quickly limits our perspective on our interactions with others. As we put aside pride and let truth shine light on deceit, we more clearly see areas where our actions and character still have room to be refined by God. What's hiding in the blind spots isn't something to push away from. They're opportunities to grow to be more like Jesus and love others well. Let's not miss out!

Do Something

1. Write **Psalm 139:23-24** somewhere you'll see it daily. Pray that verse as you see it this week, asking God for extra awareness of the blind spots in your life and relationships.
2. Which of the three relationships [with God's Word, the Holy Spirit or trustworthy people] feel most strong in your life? Which could use some attention? Spend time this week praying through where God could deepen these in you.
3. Consider who your trusted friend is. Talk with them about blind spots this week. Pray you'll be open to receiving what they share with you; then, ask God to help you discern a clear next step. If you can't think of one, commit to praying this week for God to give you a person you can trust to encourage and challenge you honestly.

