



## “Blind Guides”

### Luke 6:39-45

April 10, 2022

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- **First illustration: blind/blind guides**

- **“parable”** - A simple story used to illustrate spiritual truth.

- Everyone in Jesus' day knew about and was familiar with blindness.

- Guides are used to lead or show the way.

- **In this parable both the blind man and the guide:**

1. Live in constant darkness.
2. Are both in need of help.
3. Are equal in ability. One does not have an advantage over the other.
4. Are incapable of changing their blindness.

- **So if the guide is blind –**

Where is that going to get you?

Where is that going to take you?

You will never arrive anywhere close to the destination, because the guide is incapable of taking you there.

If he can't get there himself, then for sure you won't get there. There is no way. The guide is no farther along than you are.

Eventually you both will end up in a pit, a ditch, a hole, an abandoned well, a crevasse, etc.

- **So now let's bring that over into the spiritual realm and apply it.**

- The first man represents the “spiritually blind” (unbelievers) who walk in darkness.

- The second man represents those who think they are guides – more advanced, smarter, they have knowledge and insight. But because they share the basic characteristic of being spiritually blind, they are no farther along than the first man.

- Jesus, of course, is applying this to the Pharisees.

- They are the blind guides.

- Where they are leading people, is straight to the pit (of hell).

- All religious leaders in the works-righteousness, self-righteousness system, regardless of organization, title, morality, are leading people to hell. That is where they are heading.

- Beware of robes and titles. Guides like to set themselves apart.

- So all of the religious leaders in the world can't do a thing to help you find your way.

- This is the greatest deception: Self-deception.

#### Matt 23:24

24 "You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!"

#### Blindness

#### 2 Cor 4:4

4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ,

#### Ps 82:5

5 They do not know nor do they understand;

They walk about in darkness;

**Jesus is the only Light**

#### John 8:12

12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

#### John 12:46

46 "I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.

#### John 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but through Me.

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- **Second illustration: pupil/teacher.**
- Pupils, in Jesus' time, followed around a teacher.
- No pupil is going to arise above his teacher.
- You may become equal but never above.
- If you know more than your teacher, then you become the teacher.
- If the teacher doesn't know the answer, then you won't know the answer.
- If the teacher doesn't know the truth, then you will never know the truth.
- It is self-deception, if you think you will ever exceed your teacher.
- Howard Hendricks – "You will never take someone where you have never been."
- In the spiritual realm, the followers of the Pharisees will never rise above the Pharisees, who are their teachers.
- Therefore they will never arrive at the truth.

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"A pupil can't rise above his teacher. All you can know is what you've been told. You can't get above him. Where your teacher stops, you stop, and whatever your teacher's limits are, those are your limits. And whatever your teacher's errors are, those become your errors."

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• **Third illustration: speck/log**

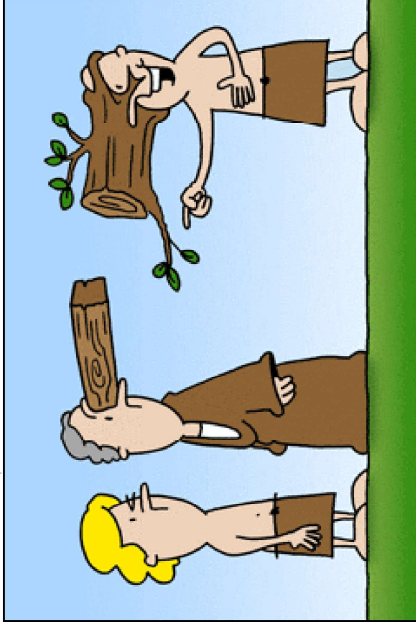
• The first illustration was a problem of no sight. Here, it is the problem of distorted sight.

• Someone has a speck of sawdust in his eye. The other person has a log.

"log" – δόκος – main plank or beam in the roof of a building

• A log would prevent sight. It would distort your vision. They are so big, you could not even get close to another person.





(See Matthew 7:1-5)

**HAH HAH, YOU JUST TOLD HIM THAT HE HAS A SPLINTER IN HIS EYE, AND YOU HAVE A BEAM IN YOURS**

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- So let's now apply it to the spiritual realm.
- Some person has a sin of relatively small measure in their life.
- Along comes the Pharisees with huge sin (self-righteousness) in their lives and wants to remove the small sin.
- **Problem:** Pharisees are "actors." They are playing the part of having clear, unobstructed eyes.
- They see no sin in their lives.
- It's like a skunk walking up to someone & telling them, "you smell horrible!"
- **Note:** The sins we see others do seem big and significant to us, but if we do them ourselves, they don't seem that big and significant.
- The speck in someone else's eye will always look like a log to you, while the log in your own eye, will always look like a speck to you.
- "Faults are like the headlights on your car; those of others seem more glaring than your own."
- Are you more concerned about your own sin than those of others?
- There may be no real sin in the other person's life—**"see clearly."** Pharisees were looking for violations. Most of which were made-up.
- They are self-deceived.

- "Self-righteous people justify themselves and condemn others.— Those who are made righteous in Christ condemn themselves and justify others.
- The self-righteous find splinters in the eyes of others and ignore the two-by-fours in their own eyes. — Those who acknowledge and confess their sins before God struggle constantly with the two-by-fours in their own eyes and are not able to see the splinters in the eyes of others.
- Self-righteous hypocrites boast of their attainments. — Believing sinners grieve over their failures.
- Self-righteous hypocrites think themselves strong and superior to others. — God's saints know themselves weak and inferior to their brethren.
- Self-righteous people, hypocrites, go about to establish righteousness. — Believers look to Christ for righteousness (Rom. 10:1-4)."

- Unknown

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- 2 problems here:
  1. You have something large in your own eye.
  2. You are trying to remove something quite insignificant in the eye of another.
- This is blatant hypocrisy.
- **"hypocrite"** – *ὑποκριτής* – an actor, someone pretending to be something they really are not.

### Matt 23:25-28

- 25 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence.
- 26 "You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also.
- 27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.
- 28 "So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Change the World—  
Begin With Yourself

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## James 3:11-12

- 11 Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water?
- 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.

## Application

1. You will never attain heaven by following those who are spiritually blind. Religious leaders will only guide you to hell.  
*Jesus is "the Way, the Truth and the Life."*
2. You will never rise above those who are religious teachers. If they do not know the truth, you will never know the truth.  
*Jesus will teach you all spiritual truth pertaining to life and godliness.*
3. You will never see the truth about God through the lives of religious leaders who are phonies, hypocrites. Religious leaders spend their lives looking for the "dust" of sin in others, and neglect the "beam" of sin infested within them.  
*Jesus walked a life that demonstrated the He was sinless.*

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## • Fourth illustration: fruit/trees

- Trees produce fruit that comes from their nature.
- Good trees produce good fruit and bad trees produce bad fruit.
- The fruit of each tree reveals its actual kind.
- You can not expect to produce anything from a tree that is different or contrary to its nature.

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- So let's take this over into the spiritual realm.
- Those who are truly connected to Jesus (good tree) will bear the good fruit of righteousness.
- Those who are Pharisees (bad tree) will produce the bad fruit of self-righteousness
- Pharisees will never produce the righteousness of God. They are incapable of it.
- John Phillips – "We do what we do because we are what we are."
- If you follow the Pharisees, a righteousness needed for entrance into heaven will never be yours.
- The heart of man will produce and manifest through his mouth what the nature of that man is.
- Warren Wiersbe - A man who apologized for swearing by saying, "It really wasn't in me!" heard a friend say, "It had to be in you or it couldn't have come out of you!"
- Therefore to determine a good tree vs. a bad tree, listen to what comes out of the mouth.
- Listen to Jesus and listen to the Pharisees. Is what you hear, words of righteousness leading to salvation or words of self-righteousness leading to damnation?

4. You will never produce from the lives of religious leaders anything than what you hear coming out of their perverted, twisted mouths.

*Jesus lived a righteous life and spoke words of truth and life.*

5. The Pharisees were self-deceived. They were no different, no higher, no more spiritual than the world around them. They were phony, hypocritical religious leaders who guided, taught, inspected, and yielded lives that led their followers to hell.
6. Jesus is saying to this crowd, "The choice is yours. You can either put your trust in the Pharisees and their man-made religion of self-righteousness or you can trust me and my sinless, righteous life for your salvation. Look at their lives and words, look at my life and words.