



# The Third Option: Blind Spots

Pastor Miles McPherson / September 30, 2018

## Opening Prayer:

Holy Father might God as we each take time to listen and share, I pray that our hearts will be filled with compassion, empathy, and grace. Bring us into the truth and light, and help us all avoid making false judgments or assumptions about the experiences and realities of “others.” As our Lord said, “the truth shall set you free,” We pray that everyone who participates experiences such freedom. Fill our hearts with courage and vulnerability, that the time and energy we invest into this discussion transforms our hearts, so that we are empowered to love and honor our brothers and sisters of all colors in bold new ways. Amen.

## Icebreaker:

Take 1 minute each and introduce yourself, single/married, children, where you’re from, what race or ethnicity are you, how do you identify, what is one of your biggest fears and share one personal story about how or if racism has affected you.

## Encouragement:

As a group see how many of the following statements are examples of blind spots?

There are some races that I would prefer that my daughter wouldn't marry. The ideas, causes, motivations & agendas of many other races are misguided, selfish & invalid. My race has done so much harm or damage to other people that we may be worse than others. Some races have done so much harm or damage to other people that they deserve payback. I'm willing to listen to all perspectives but I've heard them all and know they're inferior to mine. I never intentionally harm or hate anyone so I'm innocent of being biased or racially insensitive. We have full equality in America, when will they stop complaining about racism. I don't have a racist bone in my body. Race isn't even a factor of how I see other people.

**Scriptures: Match the following teachings with the applicable verses.**

- a. Romans 8:31 | b. Genesis 1:27 | c. Matt 22:39 and 1 John 4:20-21**  
**d. Genesis 50:20 | e. Psalm 139:23-24**

When you recognize your own blind spots, thank God for revealing them to you, repent, and ask Him to help you overcome them.

God's image is expressed in EVERY person. Male and female black and white old and young.

Honoring God means loving God. Honoring God also means honoring others.

Don't allow yourself to wallow in discouragement. If you're the target of a blind spot, remember that God knows your pain and is your ultimate vindicator.

You may be wronged, but you're not a victim with God on your side.

**Prayer:**

Jesus prayed for a blind man, and something surprising happened:  
*"He [ Jesus] asked him if he saw anything. And he looked up and said, 'I see men like trees, walking.' Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly."*  
(Mark 8:23–25) **Pray this prayer over your group.**

Lord, just as you prayed for the blind man more than once, we know that bringing light to our blind spots will take time. Help me to see how I might be unintentionally offensive and give me the courage to humble myself under the loving direction of the Holy Spirit. Reveal to me how I can be more honoring of Your love and purpose in the lives of others, no matter what they look like. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

*The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise.  
A fool's wrath is known at once, but a prudent man covers shame. (Proverbs 12:15–16)*

**Our own blind spots are unknown to us.** Thus, the words BLIND SPOT!

Ask a friend where you may have blind spots. Ask them "Are there or have there been things that I have said, done, not said, or not done that have offended or disappointed you." Just receive their response. This is a you honoring them action.

**Pray this prayer BEFORE you have this consultation.**

Lord, please open the eyes of my heart and nurture a humble attitude, one that can receive the truth about myself. Show me how blindly I have been in hurting others and, more important, how I can honor others. Holy Spirit, give me a forgiving heart toward those who have hurt me unknowingly. Grant me the wisdom and patience to reveal their blind spot to them in a way that I would want to be enlightened. In Your powerful name I pray. Amen.

**Next Steps:**

Give in-group love (time, talent & treasure) to your out-group. Honor them with in-group favor, mercy, grace and blessings. View every conversation as a consultation. HEAR THEM.

**Overcoming your blind spots. In willingness admit that they exist,** ask yourself and God if is there something you're not seeing about yourself or your perception of others that's racially offensive?

Identify who can you talk with or learn from (someone of a different race or ethnicity) that can help you overcome your blind spots? And what steps are you willing to commit to taking to overcome your blind spots?

Go on a field trip: Join a friend or venture solo into a neighborhood that is predominantly made up of people of a different race. Experience what it feels like to be a minority.

Strike up conversations with the people you meet, and seek to learn more about who they are.

You may choose to visit a different church, attend a cultural festival, dine at a restaurant of a different culture, travel to another country, etc.

**Closing Prayer:**

*Lord, please open the eyes of my heart and nurture a humble attitude, one that can receive the truth about myself. Show me how blindly I have been in hurting others and, more important, how I can honor others. Holy Spirit, give me a forgiving heart toward those who have hurt me unknowingly. Grant me the wisdom and patience to reveal their blind spot to them in a way that I would want to be enlightened. In Your powerful name I pray. Amen.*

**Quote:**

“Blind Spots are the gaps between the **intent** and the **impact** of our actions..... I applaud intention, but without an aligned reality, intention falls short of the goal.” ~Miles

**Notes:**

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