

# Short Talk

(SHT032)

## Blindspots

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## SHORT TALK: “BLIND SPOTS” (SHT032)

- Aim of Short talk:** To show that we have “blind spots” to our own sins.
- Main themes:** Sin, blind spots
- Biblical references:** Luke 18:18-25, Exodus 20:3
- Props:** Two steering wheels (eg. made out of card), two small mirrors
- Before the service:** You will need to try this out before the service to make sure that it works!

Who would like to come and help me this morning?

- I need two drivers for my two “cars”

OK ....I want you to imagine *N1* that you are driving a car.

- Here is the steering wheel (*Hand steering wheel to person to hold*)
- At the moment you are stuck in traffic so you are standing still!

I want you to imagine *N2* that you too are driving a car,

- In fact you are driving behind *N1* (*Position N2 at a distance of approximately one metre behind N1*)
- Here is your steering wheel (*Hand steering wheel to person to hold*)
- At the moment you too are standing still stuck in traffic behind *N1*
- How frustrating is that!

So we have two cars, one behind the other.

- Now in order for *N1* to see *N2* behind him he looks in his mirror.
- I need someone to come and hold this driving mirror for *N1* (*Another person comes and holds “driving” mirror*)
- *N1* can you see *N2* behind you? Great.

Now the traffic has begun moving again,

- but sadly *N1* is not a very good driver and has stalled his car.....
- so *N1* you stay where you are.

*N2* is in a hurry to get home for his tea so he decides to overtake .....

- so *N2* would you like to move to overtake *N1* very slowly?
- As *N2* overtakes you *N1*, I want you to keep looking in your driving mirror and tell me when you stop seeing *N2*.
- Can you see him now? (*Keep checking that N1 can see N2. As soon as N1 says he can't see N2 shout “STOP” and stop N2 from moving any further forward*)

At this point, *N1* cannot see *N2*,

- and as those of you who are drivers know, this is *N1*'s blind spot.
- If *N1* managed to get his car going and decided to pull out to get past a cyclist,
- he would smash into *N2*'s car wouldn't he because he can't see him?

Blind spots are dangerous because they can cause accidents.

Not only do cars have blind spots, but we can have blind spots in our own lives.

- We can do things and say things that we aren't even aware are wrong,
- so we keep on doing them.

As a result of our blind spots our relationships both with God and others can suffer.

- Let me give you an example.

A rich ruler came and asked Jesus how he could inherit eternal life?

- Jesus said: *"You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honour your father and mother.'" (Luke 18:20)*

Listen to how the man replied:

- *"All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said.*" (Luke 18:21)

This man thought that he was doing OK,

- that he was keeping all of God's commandments.

But then Jesus said something to him that helped him see that he was actually breaking the 1<sup>st</sup> commandment that says:

- *"You shall have no other gods before me."* (Exodus 20:3)
- Jesus said: *"You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."* (Luke 18:22)

This young man had a number of blind spots.....

- One of his blind spots was loving money....it was like his god....
- and then it was as if Jesus gave him a wing mirror (*show wing mirror*) so that he could see it.

His biggest blind spot however was thinking that he could earn eternal life by keeping all of the commandments,

- rather than receive eternal life as a gift from Jesus.

I need another volunteer please to come and hold the wing mirror. (*Give wing mirror to person and get them to hold it to N1's right so that he can see N2*)

- N1 – can you see N2 now?
- You couldn't see N2 before but you can now, thanks to the wing mirror.

I wonder what blind spots you have in your life.

- I wonder what words you are speaking that you aren't even aware are hurting others or God.
- I wonder what wrong things you are doing that you aren't even aware are hurting others or God.
- I wonder what faulty beliefs you have that you aren't even aware of.

Are you willing to ask Jesus to provide you with a "wing mirror" so that you can see those blind spots?

- That "wing mirror" might be the Holy Spirit speaking to you directly as you pray.
- That "wing mirror" might be a close friend or a member of your family, who is willing to tell you the truth when you ask them to show you your blind spots.
- Will you have the courage once you can see your blind spots to deal with them?
- Thank you helpers. (*Send drivers and holders of the mirrors back to their seats*)