

Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. It is an honor to have you worshipping with us today! This information is provided to help you feel welcome and “at home.”

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship some people remain seated, some stand, others kneel, many clap, and some lift their hands. The outward expression is not the issue - it is what is in your heart that counts. Just relax and enjoy the presence of God.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

Pastor Bob Wine

June 14, 2009

FOOLISH COMPARISONS

Luke 7:36-50

How do we know what our blind spots are?
God's Spirit reveals them as we reflect on Scripture -- if we are listening.

1. REVELATION CAN HAPPEN WHEN YOU **LEAST EXPECT IT**

- In Jesus' day, the Jewish leaders were divided into two parties -- Pharisees and Sadducees. But, neither liked what Jesus stood for.
- A Pharisee named Simon invited Jesus to dinner, but he didn't have enough respect to even offer Him common courtesy as a guest.
- Whenever such a celebrity was a guest, the community was welcome to gather around the outer perimeters of the dinner table to hear what he had to say. Among them, a notorious prostitute came to listen.

A tip: God's ways to reveal our blind spots are normally very subtle.

2. OUR REACTIONS **REVEAL OUR SECRETS**

- Notice Simon's reaction when Jesus touches his blind spot.

Luke 7:38 (NLT) "... she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them."

Luke 7:39 (NLT) "When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said **to himself**, 'If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She's a sinner!'"

- Simon's secret response revealed his blindness.

- Notice how Jesus reveals his delusion. He reveals Simon's secret **self-righteous** thoughts!

Luke 7:44-47 (NLT) "[Jesus]...turned to the woman and **said to Simon**, 'Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn't offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume. I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, **so she has shown me much love**. But a person who is forgiven little [because in their delusion they feel no need for it] shows only little love.'"

**- Digging Deeper –
“Foolish Comparisons”**

For personal or small group study

Week of June 14, 2009

• Simon’s self-righteous attitude had now produced the classic fruit: anger and judgmentalism.

• Simon had even judged himself to be better than Jesus.

• **Now here is the clincher ...** Jesus’ words forced him to take another look deep within himself to identify his **lack of passion** for God.

3. WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN USING TO MEASURE YOUR SPIRITUAL STATUS?

• Two basic options to measure yourself are: external or internal.

The external: “I’m as spiritual as the other religious leaders [Pharisees]

2 Corinthians 10:12 GW “Certainly, when they **measure themselves** by themselves and **compare themselves to themselves**, they show how **foolish** they are.”

1 Corinthians 4:3-4 NLT “I don’t even trust **my own judgment** on this point. My conscience is clear, but that doesn’t prove I’m right. **It is the Lord himself who will examine me and decide.**”

The internal: By what’s going on inside you.

• Jesus said the greatest commandment is to “*Love God with all ...*” That seems to be the only trustworthy ruler we can use to measure our spiritual status.

Job 23:11-12 “My feet have closely followed his steps; I have kept to his way without turning aside. I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have **treasured** the words of his mouth **more than my daily bread.**”

• What do you use to measure your spiritual status?

Have you been comparing yourself with others who may be as delusional as you? Or by how deeply you treasure God?

On a scale of 1-9, can you honestly say that you love God with “**all ...?**”

Job treasured God more than his daily bread. That is really the only thing you can measure your spiritual status by and be close to being **accurate.**

Remember, your spiritual life is governed by your choices -- not the church, parents, knowledge, etc. If you become distracted from your spiritual passion for God, you must take ownership in that and give full attention to getting back on track so you are loving God ... not His gifts, His church, or ministry ... but Him alone.

Did you have an “AHA” moment from the sermon or sermon notes? If so, what was it and how has it impacted you?

GROUP DISCUSSION or PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. Think about what a blind spot is when you are driving a car. Compare that to the blind spots in your personal life. What are some of the blind spots you have seen in others? How do you feel and respond when someone points out one of your blind spots?
2. Read Luke 7:36-50. Which character do you relate to the most? In what ways? What is your impression of Simon the Pharisee? What made Simon so upset? How did Jesus reveal Simon’s blind spot? What was his blind spot? List some of the dangers of not having our blind spots revealed.
3. What *should* we use to measure our spiritual status? What do you use to measure your spiritual status? Describe the difference between an external and an internal measuring option. What are some of the dangers with comparing ourselves with others? [2 Corinthians 10:12; Luke 12:30; 1 Corinthians 4:3-4]
4. Read Job 23:11-12. What does it mean when it says “*I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my daily bread.*”? What does this reveal about our passion or lack of passion for God? What happens when our blind spot is our lack of passion for God?
5. Ponder some possible things that God may be attempting to do in your life to reveal your blind spots. How are you responding? What are some actions that you can take to get rid of your spiritual blind spots? [James 4:7; Psalm 37:7; Luke 5:5; Matthew 6:14-15, 21, 33; Romans 12:1]
6. We are as close to God as we choose to be. Write down in a sentence or two what potential blind spots God may be trying to reveal in you. Then write down the top five things you are willing to begin doing to respond positively to discover your blind spots and get closer to God.