



JOHN 9:1-41

SPIRITUAL BLIND SPOTS

BUT WHO CAN DISCERN THEIR OWN ERRORS? FORGIVE MY HIDDEN FAULTS. KEEP YOUR SERVANT ALSO FROM WILLFUL SINS: MAY THEY NOT RULE OVER ME. PSALM 19:12-13

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A BLIND SPOT IN DRIVING? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A FLAW CLEARLY IN SOMEONE ELSE THAT THEY COULDN'T SEE IN THEMSELVES?

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN BLIND TO SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF THAT OTHERS COULD SEE?



WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR MIKE SCHMITZ: "SPIRITUAL BLIND SPOTS" AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW



What Psalm did Cardinal Newman base his homily "Hidden Faults" on?

What is meant by "unknown faults"? How would you describe this term in your own words?



Fr Mike offers three ways of dealing with spiritual blind spots:



1 Don't _____!

What sins / faults are we called to repent of?



2 Be _____ to blind spots!

How does this analogy work for driving? When do you need to check your blind spots especially?



3 Be _____!

What is our usual initial reaction when someone cuts us off in traffic?

What might actually have happened to cause that?

What do we need to bear in mind about the people who surround us (in spiritual terms)?



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Being patient with ourselves: I'm only responsible for the things I'm _____ for; I'm only in control of the things I can _____; I'm only aware of the things I am _____ of!

What about our **known** faults and sins?



What might be helpful, do you think, in dealing with our own sins and faults that we know about? How can we practically bring them before the Lord for healing and forgiveness?

Do you find it easy to go to Confession? Why or why not?



Now Read John 9:1-41



It's hard to imagine what life would be like for someone born blind - to never have seen colour or faces, sunsets or smiles; and especially at the time of Jesus to feel so isolated in society. The Pharisees considered blindness or any affliction like that to be a result of sin - either the person themselves or their parents had sinned and lost God's favour.

Jesus didn't think like that. He knew that wasn't God's way, His way. His heart ached for this man's suffering, and He reached out, in a very physical way in this miracle, and healed him of His blindness. Even though He worked a miracle to restore this man's sight, it was not enough for others to believe in Him, to see Him for who He was, who He is: God Incarnate, the Messiah. The man's sight was restored, but the greater joy was his faith: he believed in Jesus and worshipped Him. Those who had seen all their lives could not see with the eyes of their heart: they closed their eyes and ears to the possibility of the Messiah in their midst. They drove the healed man from their presence and rejected the Healer. How desperately sad! Where would we be in this story? Do we feel we need healing, like the blind man? Do we question Jesus' actions? Are we closed to the idea that He can heal, that He is God of my life? Are we afraid to ask the question? Lord, help us to see!



MISSION!

PHYSICAL HEALINGS ARE MIRACULOUS, INCREDIBLE, WONDERFUL! BUT WHAT ABOUT SPIRITUAL HEALINGS? A HEALTHY BODY CAN STILL BE FAR FROM GOD, HIS LOVE AND REAL PEACE. TAKE SOME TIME OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS OR WEEKS TO MAKE A GOOD EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE. ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GUIDE YOU AS YOU TRY TO REMEMBER ANY AREAS OF YOUR LIFE WHERE YOU FAILED IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, OTHERS OR YOURSELF. FIND OUT WHEN YOUR LOCAL CHURCH HAS CONFESSIONS AND DECIDE TO GO. YOU CAN PRAY FOR THE PRIEST IN ADVANCE TOO! IT'S NOT EASY, BUT IT'S TOTALLY WORTH IT!



PRAYER TIME!

Act of Sorrow:

O my God, I thank you for loving me. I am sorry for all my sins; for not loving others and not loving You. Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again. Amen



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON SEEING OURSELVES AND SEEING JESUS



- Miracles (Jesus Culture)
- Open the eyes of my heart (Paul Baloche)
- Amazing Grace [My Chains are Gone] (Chris Tomlin)
- God you're so good (Passion)
- He is Faithful (Brian & Katie Torwalt)
- Nothing is Impossible (Planetshakers)
- Waymaker (Leeland)
- Your Great Name (Natalie Grant)



Making a Good Confession
Fr Mike Schmitz



4:28 MINS

How do I go to
Confession? ODB Films



www.

Examination of Conscience
(NET USA)



8:44 MINS

Going to Confession for
the first time in a long time