

**Lord,
Open Our
Eyes!**

INTRODUCTION...

1. In Matthew 20:29-34 we read of an account of Jesus healing two blind men.

In Matthew 20: 29-34

29 Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him.

30 And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!"

31 Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!"

32 So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

33 They said to Him, "Lord, that our eyes may be opened."

34 So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.

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3. How much more should we desire an equitant Spiritual Sight in regards to SIN!
4. The world, and unfortunately many in the church, are blind to sin, its nature and the horrible effects that it has on us!

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3. How much more should we desire an equitant Spiritual Sight in regards to SIN!
4. The world, and unfortunately many in the church, are blind to sin, its nature and the horrible effects that it has on us!
5. We want to Open our Eyes to this Deadly Area & Remind ourselves of the Destructive Nature & Craftiness of SIN!!!

I. We Must have our EYES Open about SIN!

A. Definition of 'SIN'

1. *God's Word is our Standard! Jn 12:48, 14:15, 1 Cor 14:37*
2. *1 John 3:4 - "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness."*
3. *1 John 1:5ff - "walk in the light" vs "walk in darkness"*

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B. We ALL have a Problem with this!!

1. *1 John 1:8 - "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."*
2. *Roman 3:23 - "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"*

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C. Sin Kills the Individual!

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D. Sin Kills the Church!!

1. *Acts 20:17-38* - *Paul warned them of the danger*
2. *1 Corinthians 5* - *“Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?”*
3. *Revelation 2-3* - *5 of the 7 churches of Asia were condemned for allowing Sin to exist!*

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E. The Primary Mechanism of Sin is Deception!

1. *Hebrews 3:13* - “but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.
2. *Eph 6:11* - Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles (cunning arts, deceit, craft, trickery) of the devil
3. *2 John 1:7* - “For many deceivers have gone out into the world...”
4. *1 Peter 5:9* - “Be sober, be vigilant”

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F. How is Sin Deceptive

- How does it work its deception?
- How do we identify it?

II. Christian...Let's Open our Eyes to Sin!

A. Sin Deceives by Masking!

1. It Pretends to be Something Else

a. *It Renames itself*

b. *It repackages itself in a different wrapper*

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2. This is a favorite tactic!

- *Matthew 7:15 - "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.*
- *2 Cor 11:13-14 - For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.*

3. We must see through the Disguise! **2 Thess 5:21-22**

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B. Sin Deceives by Minimizing!

1. Sin tries to make it self look harmless

- a. *“yes, it sin, but it is not that bad”*
- b. *“yes, it is technically wrong...but it won't hurt anybody”*
- c. *“we will just change this ONE thing”*

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2. This has Never excused Lawlessness!

- a. *Genesis 4 - Cain...it was still a sacrifice...*
- b. *Leviticus 10:1ff – Nadab & Abihu...it was still fire...*
- c. *1 Sam 15 – Saul killed most of the Amalekites...*

3. ALL SIN WILL KILL!

- *James 2:10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.*

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C. Sin Deceives by Rationalizing!

1. Sin Tries to Justify or Explain why it can Exist

- a. *“we can do so much good”*
- b. *“it will bring people in”*
- c. *“well I think God won't mind”*

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2. Rationalization has been tried before and FAILED!

- a. *1 Samuel 13:1-8 - Samuel was a week late, Saul sacrificed*
- b. *2 Samuel 6 - Uzzah touched the ark*
- c. *2 Samuel 24 - David numbered his Army*

3. There is NEVER any excuse for Sin!

- a. *It is never right to do wrong!*
- b. *Isa 55:8-9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways..."*

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D. Sin Deceives by Glamorizing!

1. Sin Tries to Look Beautiful

- a. *“it will be fun or wonderful”*
- b. *“you're cool or grown up if you do this...”*

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2. Numerous Bible Examples...

- a. *Genesis 3* - the fruit was appealing!
- b. *2 Sam 11* - Bathsheba was appealing to David

3. The Horrors of a Hell will Cure this!

- Revelation 21:8 *"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."*

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E. Sin Deceives by Compromising!

1. Sin tries to find ways it can be lived with
 - a. *“we can agree to disagree”*
 - b. *“we are still studying on the subject”*
 - c. *“we can disagree on moral & doctrinal issues”*

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2. Compromising with Sin always Corrupts Truth!

- The sheep that compromises with the wolf will be eaten!
Matthew 7:15, Acts 20:29-31
- *Can one Mix LIGHT and DARK without diminishing the LIGHT? Jn 3:18-21, Mt 6:22-24*

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F. Sin Deceives by Paralyzing!

1. Sin Tangles us Up and Holds On

- a. *Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, cost you more that you wanted to pay and you don't go down alone!*
- b. *2 Tim 2:26 ...that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.*

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2. Many Examples

- a. *One sin led to another: Judges, David/Bathsheba, Corinth*
- b. *Many Snares today...Alcohol/Drugs, Immorality, Covetousness, false teaching, FEAR!*

3. We must Flee before it has a Hold!

CONCUSION...

1. In Matthew 20:29-34 two men asked that their physical eyes be opened!
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CONCLUSION...

1. In Matthew 20:29-34 two men asked that their physical eyes be opened!
2. There are many in the church that need to open their spiritual eyes to the Danger and Deceitfulness of Sin!
3. If we open our eyes we will see...
 - a. *Sin Deceives by Masking*
 - b. *Sin Deceives by Minimizing*
 - c. *Sin Deceives by Rationalizing!*
 - d. *Sin Deceives by Glamorizing!*
 - e. *Sin Deceives by Compromising!*
 - f. *Sin Deceives by Paralyzing!*