

2026-05-17 Points

Title: Who Are We Stepping Over? Seeing People Through Christ's Eyes

Sermon Summary: This convicting message challenges believers to examine how they truly see people in their daily lives. Using the healing of the blind man in Mark 8 and the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, the pastor confronts the tendency to view people as obstacles or inconveniences rather than divine appointments. The sermon emphasizes that genuine Christianity requires more than belief—it demands transformation in how we perceive and respond to those in need around us. The message wrestles with the uncomfortable truth that Americans often justify their lack of generosity while missing God's providential placement of needy people in their paths. It calls for repentance from double-mindedness, where believers claim to love God but refuse His assignments to serve others. The sermon concludes with a challenge to assess whether we're living as the rich man who ignored Lazarus or as servants who recognize every person as someone Christ died for.

Key Points:

- We often see people as trees walking around—obstacles in our way rather than souls created in God's image
- Busyness and self-focus blind us to the divine appointments God places in our daily paths
- The story of the rich man and Lazarus reveals eternal consequences for how we treat those in need
- God may providentially place poor or needy people in our lives not just to help them, but to teach us
- True Christian transformation means renewing our minds to see from heaven's perspective, not earthly values
- We justify our lack of giving by comparing ourselves to those wealthier, ignoring how blessed we already are
- Double-mindedness—saying "yes Lord" but refusing His specific assignments—creates instability in our walk
- Wisdom from God often comes through engaging with people we'd rather avoid or step over

- Our eternal position may be reversed from our earthly status—the humble exalted, the self-focused humbled
- Retirement from work doesn't mean retirement from Kingdom service and generosity
- We waste money on ourselves while claiming we can't afford to help others or give to God
- Seeking God's kingdom first means He provides everything we need, including resources to bless others

#### Scripture Reference:

- Mark 8:22-26 (Jesus healing the blind man in stages)
- Luke 16:19-31 (The rich man and Lazarus)
- James 1:2-12, 16-20 (Trials, wisdom, and the positions of rich and poor)
- Romans 12:1-2 (Living sacrifices and renewing of minds)
- The Good Samaritan parable (referenced from previous week's message)

#### Stories:

- The blind man healed by Jesus who initially saw people as "trees walking around"
- The rich man and Lazarus—the beggar laid at the rich man's gate, their reversed eternal destinies
- The pastor's experience working as a busboy, being appalled at wasted food
- The missionary story about people planting small potatoes and eating the large ones, resulting in diminishing crops
- The pastor's father doubling his tithe to 20% after retirement when God spoke to him in prayer
- Personal confession about driving past people in need, then having to turn around to help them
- The illustration of people moving stray cats to other neighborhoods to avoid dealing with them
- Men coming to the pastor complaining about marital needs versus wants