



The Truth About Blind Spots
Four Things Life Has Taught Me About Independence)
My Personal Testimony

April 26, 2026 – My Birthday Testimony

Text: Matthew 23:1-11

Series Summary:

Part 1: God's Original Design (From Dependence to Independence)

Part 2: Man's Original Fall (It made him dependent)

Part 3: My Personal Testimony: Four Things Life Has Taught Me About Independence

- A. Dependence is Seasonal (What you depend on now will be gone in the future)**
- B. Independence demands the right pieces (Master the pieces and you will master independence and self-determination)**
- C. Cultural religious bias limits our reach (Matthew 23)**

Questions People Ask Me:

- 1. Name four of your historic blind spots (Relational, Financial, Academic, Cultural)**
- 2. What delivered you from your blind spots (Exposure and Frustration—Frustration made me see)**
- 3. What are the religious blind spots that concern you (The Self-righteous ones)**
- 4. What about religious culture, and age, that causes blind spots (The Assumption that we are not like others, Luke 18:11-12)**

Read Note: Matthew 23:1-12

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: ²“The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. ³ So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. ⁴ They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put

them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

⁵ “Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; ⁶ they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; ⁷ they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called ‘Rabbi’ by others.

⁸ “But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. ⁹ And do not call anyone on earth ‘father,’ for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. ¹⁰ Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Messiah. ¹¹ The greatest among you will be your servant. ¹² For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. ([Matthew 23:1–12](#), NIV)

Five Things Life Has Taught Me In My Personal Life

Statement:

Birthdays are more than celebrations; they are moments of reflection.

They force you to look back, evaluate what you've learned, and decide how you will move forward. After years of living, leading, building, and learning, here are five things life has taught me:

1. The Danger of Unhealthy Dependence (Moses depended on Aaron and Hur)

- **As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning.** ([Exodus 17:11](#), NIV)

2. The Danger of Dependence (Dependence can quietly limit your life)

When you depend too much on people, systems, or circumstances, you give up your ability to grow, think, and build for yourself.

- Dependence delays development
- Dependence weakens decision-making
- Dependence creates vulnerability when support disappears

Life Lesson: God never intended for you to live fully dependent on people, only in partnership with Him.

Question: What if I am in a dependent state and need to lean on someone?

3. The Power of Independence: Independence is not isolation; it is responsibility.

It is the ability to:

- Think for yourself
- Act on what God has given you (what do you have in your hand, Exodus 4:2)
- Build with what is in your hands

From the beginning, God gave man seed, responsibility, and authority.

- **Genesis 1:29** – God gave seed
- **Genesis 2:15** – Man was told to work (abad – to cultivate, develop, produce)

Life Lesson: Independence is where purpose begins to produce results.

4. The Importance of Knowledge: (Solomon’s Prayer – The Right Thing to Ask God For)

- When [Solomon](#) had the opportunity of a lifetime, he did not ask for money, power, or long life—he asked for understanding.

1 Kings 3:9–12 (NIV)

“So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

5. The Importance of a Good Tribe

- Life has taught me that you cannot build anything meaningful alone.
- You need people.

As [Seth Godin](#) says: “A tribe is a group of people connected to one another, connected to a leader, and connected to an idea.”

- Your tribe shapes your thinking
- Your tribe influences your direction
- Your tribe determines your ceiling

Life Lesson:

- If you get the wrong tribe, you will struggle.
- If you get the right tribe, you will thrive.