

## **“THE WORD BECAME EYES.”**

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**Scripture Texts: Matthew 9:35-36; Luke 10:23-24; Revelation 1:12-15**

### **Introduction.**

Can you imagine the world of a person born blind? Can you imagine a world of complete darkness all the time? Can you imagine never seeing a sunset or a mountain or an ocean or a field of dahlias and having to listen to someone try to describe it to you? Can you imagine never seeing the beauty of a snow covered yard or Christmas lights like that spectacular display over on Emerald Way? Can you imagine not being able to see?

Sight is one of God’s most precious gifts. Eyes are one of the most remarkable things in all of God’s creation.

The human eye is an absolute miracle and a marvel of science. It’s staggering how our eyes take in light and images and turns them into electrical signals and sends them to our brains where they are processed into mental images we can understand. Our eyes are the second most powerful and complex organ after our brains.

Our eyes are perfectly positioned on our heads to give us depth perception. The lens of our eyes allows us to focus on things near and far. The pupil changes size to control how much light comes in, much like the lens on a camera.

Our eye is a 576 mega pixel camera with over seven million cones that enable us to see color and 100 million rods that helps us see in the dark. One scientist I read this week claimed that the millions of cells in our eyes process more information in a second than the largest super computer could process in a hundred years.

Even Charles Darwin admitted that that human eye was one of the greatest challenges to his theory of evolution. He wrote in his classic book, *On the Origin of Species*, “To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances ... could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree.”

To credit their formation to evolution is to rob God of one of His most marvelous miracles. But the even greater miracle is that the all-seeing creator of the universe became flesh.

### **Jesus had human eyes.**

Jesus had human eyes with corneas, pupils, lens and retinas that all worked together to send light signals through His optic nerve to His human brain. He saw what we see the way we see it. The irises of His eyes had color which would have been determined in part through the

genes He got from Mary. Though some like to speculate, we don't know what color Jesus' eyes were. Someday those who believe in Him will see Him face to face, eye to eye, and then we will know the color.

However, as we have seen with His hands and feet, what's most important about His eyes is what He did with them. Our first text is one great example.

### **Jesus' eyes are eyes of compassion.**

**Matthew 9:36** *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them*, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

When Jesus looks and sees what does He see?

He doesn't see just crowds of nameless, faceless people. He doesn't see a number. Jesus sees everyone and each one. He sees individuals, He sees their hearts and souls, their sins and struggles, their fears and failures, their hopes and dreams. Jesus sees everything.

Jesus sees people. He saw His disciples one by one as He called them.

**Mark 2:14** He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

When Jesus saw Matthew, He didn't see a political traitor of the Jewish people, He didn't see a man who had sold his soul to greed, He didn't see a man who should be hated and despised, He saw a disciple.

**John 1:47-48** Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, *I saw you.*"

Nathanael was astonished because he knew he had been seen in a way no one else could see. Remember that day when Jesus talked to the Samaritan woman at the well?

**John 4:28-30, 39** So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" 30 They went out of the town and were coming to him. ... 39 Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did."

How about when He saw Zacchaeus up in the Sycamore tree?

Jesus saw and He didn't judge, He didn't condemn, He had compassion, He called to faith and holiness. He didn't point a finger, He pointed to truth and to God. He saw their sin and their past condition, who they were and what they had done, and extended grace and mercy.

When those four men lowered their friend through the roof, they saw a man who needed healing, Jesus saw a man who needed forgiveness and He gave him both, healing and forgiveness.

And those who were there “were all amazed and glorified God, saying ‘We never saw anything like this!’” (Mark 2:12).

To see Jesus is nothing like anything you have ever seen before. And to be seen by Jesus is like nothing you have ever experienced before. He sees with compassion.

### **Do you have the eyes of Jesus?**

Do you see what Jesus sees? Remember last week when I spoke of the woman who sat at Jesus’ feet and wet them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. While she was doing that Jesus said to his host, Simon the Pharisee, “Do you see this woman?” (Luke 7:44).

He was saying to him, “do you see what I see? I know what you think you see, but do you see what I see?” Here is what Simon saw:

**Luke 7:39** Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner.”

Jesus challenged Simon to see what he missed seeing, to see the most beautiful thing in the room, a heart pouring out worship and adoration; confession and repentance, a heart totally open to God and to life.

“Simon, are you looking at the same woman I am looking at? Are you seeing what I am seeing?”

Simon’s eyes were blinded by self-righteousness, by self-focus, by thinking himself better than this sinner. He didn’t see her tears, he didn’t see her selfless act of love and worship. He saw her sin, Jesus saw her heart.

The disciples did the same thing. Back at the Samaritan well, the disciples left Jesus to rest His feet at the well while they walked into Samaria to buy food and no doubt they all passed right by the Samaritan woman heading out to the well. They didn’t see her, they didn’t see the harvest field, they didn’t see the crying need of this desperate soul.

Do you see the lost, the sinful, the unrighteous and think, “I’m glad I’m not like them?” Or do your eyes weep with compassion for those who are like sheep without a shepherd?

Jesus changes our perspective; He changes what we look at and what we see. Jesus changes the focus of our eyes so we things we never saw before.

Sure, we can't see other people's hearts, but we can learn to look past externals, past skin color or clothes or lifestyle or tattoos and piercings, where they have been or what they have done. Do we see sheep without a shepherd who desperately need a Savior?

Jesus says that if we want to see Him, we need to look for Him disguised as someone poor or needy, someone distressed or downtrodden. It may not just be the homeless guy on the street corner, it may be a co-worker or an acquaintance.

Mother Teresa used to say that there are more people starving from lack of love than those starving for lack of food.

We have all been placed where we are on purpose by God to glorify God and help others see Jesus. Who around you needs to see Jesus? Pray for eyes to see the eyes that need to see.

One good way is the Perspectives Course that's offered right here in our own community. Over the course of 15 weeks you will have your eyes opened like you never thought possible. Just ask Nancy Zylstra, Perlene Hoekema or the Smits. It gives you God's eyes and heart for the world.

**Jesus' eyes are eyes of flames of fire.**

**Revelation 19:11-12** Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 *His eyes are like a flame of fire.*

Jesus' eyes are penetrating eyes. He sees to the heart, to the root, to the joints and the marrow, to the depths and the core. He sees us as we really are.

He sees the hypocrisy, the impurity, the insincerity, He sees through our masks, our facades, when we are dishonest with ourselves and others. He sees what we are hiding and making excuses for.

It's compassion when Jesus looks at our hearts and exposes the lies and deception. Remember the rich young ruler. Scripture tells us that Jesus looked at him and loved him. Jesus felt a deep compassion for him, and confronted his idolatry of riches. Jesus showed the man the condition of his heart and his lack of love for God.

**Psalms 139:23-24** Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

**Application and conclusion.**

Ask Jesus to open your eyes, your spiritual eyes. Ask Jesus to give you the eyes of faith. As Jesus fixed His eyes on us, let us fix our eyes on Him.

*Fix your eyes on Jesus.*

**Hebrews 12:1-2** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 **looking** to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Look back** at the past saints, all sinners redeemed by grace. Job who suffered, David who sinned, Jonah who got scared and ran away, Peter who denied, the prostitute. Consider modern day believers who have set a good example and have run the race well.

**Look forward** at the joy that is set before us, the great riches of the reward and inheritance we have in heaven.

**Look up** at Jesus, fixing your eyes on the author and finisher of our faith. He isn't just our example, He is our strength and help. Apart from Him we can do nothing, including run the race He has set before us. He run in the strength He supplies, in the grace He gives, that He receives the glory and we receive the crown.

But **look in** also at what entangles you. What slows you down, what impedes your progress in faith, what hinders your growing in grace and in serving Jesus? What sin entangles you mind and heart? What time wasters are destroying your soul? What are you taking in through your eyes that is turning your heart cold or dark? What pulls you into the world rather than away from it? What gives Satan a foothold?

Look at these things, take an inventory, take note and then make a plan for change.

What, you can't change? You have tried before and it hasn't worked? So Jesus is not greater than your struggles or your problems or your sin? Those are lies from Satan meant to hinder and discourage and defeat. Jesus never leaves you alone to figure it out and do it. He is that author and finisher on our faith. Pray, trust and obey.

We need to get our eyes off ourselves and off our circumstances and onto the Lord. When burdens pile up and the walls start closing in, look to Jesus. When people are mean and hurtful or unkind and uncaring, we need to look to Jesus.

He will bring to completion the good work He has begun. Keep your eyes on Jesus, the master and commander of your life, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us.

**Finally, consider the incredible privilege it is to see what you see and know what you know.**

**Luke 10:23b-24** Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! 24 For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

Prophets and kings, famous people and rich people, powerful people and brilliant people have desired to know what you know, to see what you see.

To live after the NT is a huge blessing and benefit to us, compared to all who died before Christ was revealed. All of the OT is unlocked for us to more fully understand.

The simplest Christian, even a Christian elementary student, understands things now that the prophet Isaiah and King David had no clue about.

This great privilege comes with a great responsibility.

**Luke 12:48** Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required

**Let's pray:**

**Psalm 121:1-2** I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?  
2 My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

**Psalm 119:18** Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

**Ephesians 1:17-19** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 *having the eyes of your hearts enlightened*, that you may know what is the *hope* to which he has called you, what are the *riches* of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his *power* toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might

Thank you for your amazing grace, once we were blind but now we see. Give us the eyes of Jesus to see what He sees.