

## **The Eyes of Jesus**

### **Psalm 34:15-18**

There is something that is happening today that would be kind of wild for most of us of my age or older to think about. It is kind of hard for us to think about it but in reality it can work out for those who enter into it.

I am talking about a dating site or app. I have known quite a few people who have met, dated and in some cases married successfully after meeting on a dating sight on the internet. I am not advocating or putting down these dating sights I just wanted to bring our attention to them for just a second.

Now in all of these sights there is the opportunity, no matter what your age, to set up a profile and see if anyone expresses an interest in meeting you. Likewise you can look through the many profiles listed there and you can contact someone, telling them you are interested in meeting them.

Now all that is well and good except one thing. How easy would it be to fluff up your profile so that you look good on paper? How easy would it be for someone else to fluff up their profile so they would look good on paper? Pretty easy wouldn't it?

But let's say that you decided you wanted to meet someone who you met on the internet. What are some of the signs you could look for to see if they are genuine and may have a true interest in you? I did a search online for how to really get to know someone and see if they are real and they came up with a few things to look for.

Number one was...

1. Lots of eye contact. Subconsciously or not, people like to make tons of eye contact with people they are attracted to.

2. Their pupils dilate. There is a certain rush of emotions that cause this.
3. They lean into you when you are talking. Their body language means they are truly interested in what you are saying.

There were several more but these were the top ones on the sight I was looking at.

I say all this because I felt led to continue to speak about Jesus and who He truly is.

I am afraid for most people the Jesus they know or think they know is kind of like the dating sight but in reverse. I think most people have written a profile of who they think Jesus is versus really, really getting to know who Jesus is.

That is easy for all of us to do. Not only do we hear the world around us explain who they think Jesus is but when we come to God's word, when we read about the Jesus we find here, we come with our own looking glasses. Looking glasses that are created by all the experiences that have occurred in our lives. Looking glasses that have been created by our own personalities.

Look with me at scripture.

**Matthew 6:22-23, "The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness."**

While I wish I could say that my eye is clear therefore my body is full of light but the reality is that my eyes have taken in a lot of tough stuff. What they have seen and experienced has not always been good therefore I cannot say my eye is totally clear. I bet you can say the same thing.

Even though you may not have experienced heartache or tragedy in its many forms, the world around us, Satan and our own flesh tends to cloud our eyes where we do not see things clearly as they truly are.

Let's try an experiment. **PUT UP PICTURE OF THE DOT**

What do you see here? We all tend to be drawn to the dot on the page don't we. What about all the great white expanse that surrounds the black dot. It is 20-30x the size of the black dot but we don't see the white do we? We have been conditioned to see dark more than light.

This is the danger when we come to scripture. We bring our cloudy, world trained eyes to the scripture and if we are not extremely careful, reading slow and asking for the Holy Spirit's clarity, then we can miss a lot of what God has for us in His Word.

This is where I find us this morning. Wanting to go slow as we continue to look at who Jesus truly is and what better place to start then how, through Jesus' eyes, how He saw things around Him. I think as we do this we will get a better, clearer picture of who He is.

- 1. The way Jesus saw things was through clear eyes, the eyes of someone who had been in heaven.**

Look how Jesus observed nature.

**Matthew 7:26, 28-29, "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns...observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil or do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these."**

Through the eyes of Jesus He saw His Father as the great Provider and Creator. Through the eyes of Jesus, the thumbprint of God His Father was everywhere.

He spoke of seeds, of rain, of harvest, of grapes and wine, of fruit, rocks, storms and many other things. But all He observed He always saw them through the eyes that had been created in heaven.

## 2. Through Jesus' eyes He saw into people's hearts

He saw their pain and their suffering and He was moved with compassion. He saw their lostness and it drove Him to the cross.

He looked into people's heart and saw their sinful state. Look at this next passage.

**John 4:6b-7a, 16-18, 28-29a, "So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting by the well. It was about the sixth hour. Then came a woman of Samaria to draw water."**

Jesus starts up a conversation with her and after telling her about drinking the living water which would give eternal life Jesus says to her... **"Go, call your husband and come here. The woman answered and said, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You have correctly said, 'I have no husband; for you have had five husbands, and the one who you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly."**

I am sure when the woman said I have no husband she thought she was hiding something. I don't think the response she got was quite what she expected.

After talking a bit more with Jesus the following occurs.

**Vs 28-29, "So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and said to the men, 'Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done..."**

Jesus looked into her heart, confronted her with her sin but He didn't judge her. If you read the story through you will see that He continued to tell her about the how salvation is found in Him.

**Look at the end result. Vs 40-41, "So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. Many more believed because of His word..."**

Through the eyes of Jesus, her saw this woman and the life she had been stuck in but that didn't stop Him for going to her town and as He looked into the hearts of men and women there, He saw that everyone was a lost soul who needed to be loved and saved. His eyes were filled with compassion.

Let's look at the eyes which Jesus saw Peter, who was described as the one who was closest to Jesus.

After Peter was told by Jesus that he would deny Him three times and after a rooster would crow. Peter said there was no way this would happen. Look with at the third time Peter denied he knew Jesus.

**Luke 22:59-62, "After an hour had passed, another man began to insist, saying, 'Certainly this man also was with Him, for he is a Galilean too. But Peter said, 'Man, I do not know what you are talking about.' Immediately, while he was still speaking a rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, 'Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times. And he went out and wept bitterly.'"**

Peter looked at Jesus and what he saw melted his heart.

Some say what Peter saw in the eyes of Jesus was great disappointment but I don't think so. After all, Jesus already knew Peter was going to deny Him. I think the eyes that Peter saw were not eyes of disappointment, condemnation, anger or even hurt. I think they were eyes of compassion, knowing the heartache that Peter was going through.

They were eyes of understanding, knowing that Peter, through his failure was going to suffer but then he was going to grow through them and become the fiery apostle that he became. You see...

**3. The eyes of Jesus look down the road from where things are. The eyes of Jesus look into the future to see how things and people are going to be.**

Just like for Peter, Jesus knows some of the things you are going through are necessary to help you come to the point where you surrender completely to Him. Jesus sees those trials and temptations and the suffering they cause and it grieves His heart that you have to go through them. But yet He also knows, that if you are going to grow in your faith in Him, go through them you must.

On one hand it grieves Jesus' heart and on the other it warms His heart as He knows what the end result will be. A stronger, more Christ-like you.

Next, if you look into the Gospels you will see

**4. The eyes of Jesus were full of anger**

Look with me at a couple of passages.

**John 2:13-17, “The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple...overturning their tables...He said to them... ‘stop making My Father’s house a place of business.’ His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for Your house will consume Me.”**

In Matthew 23 beginning in verse 13 Jesus has a scorching rebuke for the Pharisees and scribes, those religious leaders of the Jewish people. He begins by saying...

**Matthew 23:13-16, “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, not do you allow those who are entering to go in.” Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you devour widow’s houses...Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, because you travel around on sea and land to make you proselyte (convert to Judaism) and when he becomes one you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves. Woe to you blind guides...”**

And on and on it goes throughout the Matthew 23. As you see Jesus interacting with the religious leaders His eyes light up with anger. But this is not the kind of anger we are familiar with. This is righteous anger. This is anger at the religious leaders who should have known better, should have known God, should have led people to repentance and true worship of God. But instead they were leading people straight to hell.

Jesus saw this and He was fired up. He saw what religion without the leading of God had become and it was sending masses of people, people created by God, people God loves, people Jesus loves, it was sending them right into a godless eternity. Over this Jesus’ eyes were fired up with anger.

One more passage then we will be done.

**Psalm 34:15-18, “The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and His ears are open to their cry. The face of the Lord is against evildoers, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. The righteous cry and the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”**

Two things here.

**5. The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous**

Who is the righteous? Those who come into a saving relationship with Jesus. That is you. Are you perfect in all your ways? No, but you are inwardly made perfect by the perfect work of Christ therefore His eyes are on you and His ears are tuned into your cry.

**6. The face (the eyes) of the Lord is against evil doers**

This is not talking about you when you stumble, struggle or even wrestle with sin in its many forms. Does Jesus want to help you overcome sin? Absolutely but He knows from experience the human experience the troubles you will have. That is why He is interceding on your behalf. That is why He died for your past, present and future sins.

But His eyes are against evil doers, even so much that He will cut off the memory of them from the face of the earth.

Sounds pretty harsh doesn't it. But just as Jesus' eyes flared with anger at the Pharisees and scribes, knowing that they were causing people to slide right into a godless eternity, He sees the same thing happening today. People who are creating new ways of sin, new ways of entrapping the innocent, the young and the feeble. Jesus has no patience of mercy for these people. Too many lives are at stake.



I tell you this morning that Jesus' eyes were clear. He saw into people's hearts. He knew their struggles, but He also saw who they could become. He saw if they were for Him or against Him and for those who are for Him He is a near and saving Lord.

I wanted to share this look at Jesus to give you a fresh way of reading the Gospels. Slowdown in your reading. Put yourself in Jesus' shoes. Don't just look at His teachings but look for the man Himself. Skip the teaching and look for the Teacher. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand who Jesus was and how He was seeing things and people.

Ask these questions of yourself. How do you look at Jesus and how does He look at you?

Do you see things, Jesus clearly?

One of God's favorite prayer requests from us is...show me Jesus. Let that be your prayer. Show me Jesus.

Sing this ending song with me..

Markoe, we are changing the ending song to this...

**O soul are you weary and troubled?  
No light in the darkness you see?  
There's light for a look at the Savior  
And life more abundant and free**

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in His wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace**