**Waiting for the Lord: To Open My Eyes**

**Job 19:20-27**

Resurrection of our Lord

04.17.2022

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.  Amen.

Today we continue our vigilant waiting as we are ***Waiting for the Lord: To Open My Eyes***.

Job was a man who, according to worldly standards, had everything – wealth and a big family. He was righteous before God, trusting God in all things. He also knew of his sinfulness, he was in need of a redeemer. And he believed firmly that with his own eyes, his own fleshly eyes, one day he would rise to see that Redeemer. Job was a man who relied on his eyes of faith.

Throughout the Old Testament, one of the things Messiah was going to do was make the eyes of the blind to see. Jesus did so! On a number of occasions Jesus made the blind to see. In Matthew’s Gospel, the first incident is of two blind men following Him. He touches their eyes and their eyes are opened. But then Jesus tells them, “See that no one knows about it.” If anybody knew them, they knew they were blind, how do you hide that you can now see?

A couple chapters later, a man is demon-oppressed so that he is both blind and mute. Jesus healed him so that he was able both to see and speak. But when the Pharisees heard about it, they claimed Jesus had done it by the power of Beelzubul, the prince of demons. Jesus rightly points out the foolishness of this idea, that if a kingdom is divided against itself it cannot stand. There are other blind that Jesus healed.

Jesus gave sight to the blind, and did other healing of physical ailments after which He told them not to speak about it. Why did He do this? Too often when they were healed, when their physical eyes opened, people were more enamored with the fleshly event, they saw things from a worldly perspective. It was that they saw with their eyes, but they did not see. They saw their physical healing and thought that was everything – the be all and end all. Did they see the One standing before them? Did they see God’s Christ, their Redeemer and their eternity?

Dear friends, you have heard it said that we are to walk by faith not by sight. Do you?

Ever pray fervently that God would help you with some physical ailment, then you go to the doctor to get help with it, and it is resolved in a positive manner? When it was all over, did you go back to God again in prayer – a prayer of thanksgiving for healing? I am sure though, that you told everybody what a wonderful doctor you had!

You raised your voice to heaven and asked God to heal the incredible ache, you tried a few pain relievers, nothing worked until you swallowed a couple *best-stuff-ever-brand*. When the pain was gone, everybody heard you declare how *best-stuff-ever-brand* pain reliever is a miracle worker. But, did God even get a nod?

Dear friends, I ask you, do you see? Are your eyes open?

Surely you see the things of the world, you see pain, suffering, sorrow, death, but do you see them with the eyes of faith?

When you look at the things of the faith, what sort of eyes do you use? How do you respond to the things of the world which many claim are social issues, or cultural issues, but are actually attacks upon Christ and His Church? Things like abortion, issues concerning human sexuality; male-female, marriage, and such things?

How do respond? Do you claim as long as no one bothers you, let them do what they want? What about what they teach your children, grand-children, or everybody around you?

Do you see things with the eyes of faith and know that Satan is using the world to attack the church? Male and female were created in God’s image! Husband and wife, man and woman, are given to one another to become one flesh! When God talks about his bride the church, and says marriage is a reflection of this, does it have anything to do with these issues? Which came first – God in his relationship to His bride the church, or the world’s perversion of the image of God how they believe things should be?

By the way, these issues are the tip of the iceberg! Those are the things that out there loudly being seen in the world if our eyes are open. But there are other ones as well. Abortion – killing those God forms in the womb is an old topic, a little less seen.

What kind of things have crept into God's church in an effort to make God's church more appealing to people, to draw in the crowds – to fill every pew? Is that truly the goal? Is that God’s goal for His church? Or, is the goal that we might have eyes to see, so that we walk by faith and not by sight?

How about the churches which teach that Jesus did not physically rise from the dead? Did you hear some teach that Jesus was just a man, not truly God? And, that He did not die as payment for your sin? Nope, He died because He was in the wrong place at the wrong time! What does that do with the what Scripture declares, *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.* (Gal. 4:4-5)?

Before the foundation of the world, God's plan was that his own Son, the reality from which the image of God, Adam was formed, would enter His creation to redeem those fallen in His image. It was planned that a virgin would conceive by the work of the Holy Spirit. God would take on human flesh in her womb. She would give birth to a Son, God's Son, who would fulfill The Law, submitting even to the laws of men. In His perfection He would be the lamb of God, the more perfect sacrifice. Arrested and falsely declared guilty, He would allow Himself to be brought before Pilate. He would permit His creatures to scourge, mock, beat, crown Him with thorns, and then take Him outside the city, strip Him naked, and shamefully nail Him to a cross to die.

With His last breath He spoke, "Tetelestai…It is finished." ***HIS*** work, the plan put in place before the world’s foundations were laid, was accomplished

God's divine plan is fulfilled. Your sinfulness was taken into His own flesh in exchange for Christ's righteousness given to you. Your death accomplished in His own flesh so that you might not die eternally.

The women arrived at the tomb, their eyes saw but did they believe? They had come to the tomb to prepare His body for long interment in a tomb in the Jewish manner. They had heard with their ears when Jesus had said He would rise again on the third day, but they showed up on that day expecting His ***DEAD*** body to be there. Their eyes saw, but in their worldly experience, nobody rises from the dead.

The angel told them to go to Galilee, that there they would see Him, just as He had told them.

You have also been told where to go to see Him. His word was spoken into your ears earlier, pronouncing your sins forgiven. It is not just part of our liturgy to make you feel good. Christ commanded His word to be spoken into your ears, and where it is spoken, sins are forgiven before the Father in heaven. Are your eyes open to see it?

On our altar presently sit bread and wine. The Word of Christ will be spoken, and Christ Himself declares that His own flesh, which was pierced upon the cross will be on the table, and distributed to us to eat. He also declares that the cup will hold the very precious blood which He spilled to redeem us, and you will drink of it. He declares that this meal grants forgiveness, eternal life, salvation and strengthens Faith to believe. Do you see it?

Hundreds of years before Christ took on human flesh, Job knew that his Redeemer would die and rise again. He declared that one day, the last day, he would stand upon the Earth with his own flesh, and with his own eyes – resurrected and perfected, eyes – he would see God.

Your eyes see what Job saw by faith in the resurrection narratives of scripture. You know Christ rose from the dead. Knowing this, you rejoice today. You declare “He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

With that knowledge, with eyes of faith wide open, now you wait. You wait for the Lord to fulfill Hs resurrection in you and open your eyes – your very fleshly eyes – to see Him when He comes again in glory.

Dearly beloved of God in Christ Jesus, H is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! And now we wait for His return in great joy and expectation, to open our eyes that we might see Him face to face on that glorious day. Amen.