

Introduction:

- I had this prophetic word given to me last Sunday after church. "I saw the Lion of Judah with eyes of fire. As the fire in His eyes flickered, it stirred the blowing of the wind. As the wind blew, His mane blew. The blowing mane turned into fields of mature wheat drenched in golden sun gently blowing in the wind. The wheat was ripe for harvest. App. As we look into the eyes of Jesus, we behold His Passion for His Bride without spot wrinkle or blemish. The Lord of the harvest gives us revelation of His heart and His passion to prepare us for the harvest. The fields are ripe and He longs to send us out." *Brigitte Linville Marquart.*
- All Eyes on Jesus.
 - Lions roar: relational, frighten intruders, to help the pride know where they are.

I. Help! I Can't See Him

- A. If you are someone who cannot relate to these message on ALL Eyes On Jesus, I want you to play close attention today. I really want to help you. Here is who this is for today:
1. You may not want help. But please listen, because there will come a time when you do want help and today's message will help you.
 2. You may want to see Jesus but it is not happening. I want to help you to find your way.
 3. You may be in a crisis or a crisis of faith already, and feel it is to late. Stay with me. I believe I can help you. Let me quickly answer this question....
- B. What does it mean to see Jesus? I will give you four. There may be more.
1. I am experiencing His presence. Most times when you experience the presence of God you experience LIFE/Zoe life. You feel alive. Your eyes are on Jesus.
 2. I am following Him. Whether I know where I am going or not. Ie. Abram was called to follow God to a place he had never been...to a place he had no map for...nor would he realize when he arrived unless God spoke to him.
 3. I am discerning what He is saying to me. Ie. You are hearing his voice, thoughts etc. Because of that your eyes are upon Him or moving towards Him. IE. He has roared and you arise to go to Him.
 4. I am in faith. Faith is not a feeling. It is a choice based on the Word with an internal knowing. IE. God said it, that is the way it is.
- C. What does it mean to not see God? Very simply, you do not sense His presence. Not sensing the presence of God might cause you to feel...
1. You may feel alone...without God. Without faith in God's word, (Ie. "*He will never leave or forsake you.*") you open yourself up to a spirit of loneliness which can lead to / or invite in its friends: depression, unholy sexual relationship, relationships

with unbelievers, medicating with-drugs, alcohol, food, etc.

2. You may feel rejected, ignored, distant, etc. You open yourself up to spirits of self-pity, rejection (God does not love me, God does not care,) etc.
3. You may feel nothing:
 - a) And feeling nothing may cause you to drift, drift further away from Him.
 - b) Feeling nothing may lead to doubt. When you cant see Jesus do not be surprised you are tempted to doubt.
 - c) And feeling nothing could also lead you to a place of faith where you choose to follow based on the Word of God. Ie. Like a pilot flying at night, you have to trust the instruments. Many a pilot has crashed based on 'feelings.'
 - d) IE. Living in the 'feely culture' we are in, this leads to a 'crisis.'" More on this later.

II. What might cause me to not see Jesus?

- A. Sin hides Jesus. And sinners hide from Jesus. Shame, IE. Adam and Eve
 1. *"And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed."* (John 3:19, 20, ESV) We know Jesus called Himself the Light of the World. But yet those who sin live darkness and avoid the Light. Do not be surprised if your life of sin is making it hard to see Jesus. There are so many scriptures backing this up.
 2. Judas is a prime example.
 - a) He help himself to the money bag. (Jn 12:6)
 - b) He betrayed Jesus with a kiss and sold Him out for forty pieces of silver.
 - c) He lost sight of Jesus and out of his guilt and despair he hung himself.
 - (1) IE. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10-24 year olds.
 - (2) 22 veterans take their lives everyday. 8022 people
 - (3) Every 15 minutes someone in the US takes their life. 131,400
 3. Peter denied Jesus three times and thought he could never be restored. He lost sight of Jesus in his crisis of faith.
 4. If you are going to live in sin as a believer. Make poor moral choices. You are literally putting a blanket of unbelief over your eyes. Satan is using you to cover your own eyes and keep you from seeing the truth. Keep that up long enough and you will find yourself with a seared conscience. IE. Last week I wrapped up Joshua Johnsons eyes.
 - a) When sin blinds you, you end up falling into a ditch with other blind people. (Mt 15:14)

- B. Choosing not to see Him, hides Jesus. This was me.
1. Maybe you are 'turning a blind eye' to your sin. You are knowingly doing that. You are choosing not to see Him.
 2. Maybe you are ignoring Jesus. Ignoring Jesus is a choice. Not seeing God may be by choices you are making.
 - a) You have walked away from Him.
 - b) Many believers do that then they blame God for being distant. I.e. Couples may do this in a marriage. They ignore their spouse, that pushes spouse away. This creates distance. The ignored spouse now does the same thing in response, resulting in greater distance. Now you are living together but do not see each other.
 - c) When you choose not to see God, don't be surprised if you find yourself in a crisis of faith...especially in a time of need or crisis itself.
- C. Having your eyes set on other things. They may not be bad things but they are distractions. The result is: They drift away from Him out of neglect of relationship. Heb 2.
- D. Jesus chooses to hide himself.
1. Not seeing God is a regular part of the Christian life.
 - a) He wants us to seek Him. *"It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out."* (Proverbs 25:2, ESV)
 - b) He wants us to want Him.
 - c) It is part of the believers growth process. I.e. Playing hide and seek with the grand kid when they are two, three, four, six. As they mature hiding becomes harder for me. And finding is difficult.
 - (1) When they are young they go right to the same place you hid last time.
 - (2) As they get older you have to be totally out of sight to be hidden. Their skills at finding are increasing. This is what God is after in His people.
 - (3) At some point it is just plain hard to hide because they are so mature.
 2. He wants us to grow in faith.
 - a) Remember: faith has no feelings. That is when you find out if your faith is real. You are as Paul said, "In a walk by faith and not by sight time."
 - b) The danger zone is when you begin to abandon your faith because you are not feeling anything. (I.e. In hide and seek your grandchild begins to fear because you cant be found) What is most obvious to me is that this person is not a person of the Word of God. Or, maybe they have it in their head but not in their heart.
 - (1) This is where parents make mistake in raising children in the faith. They think because their kids can quote the word that they can walk it as well.

- (2) They believe that since it is in their head it must be in their heart.
- c) Some Christians will start to make bad choices at this point because the word is in their head and not their heart. You have to believe the Word when you don't feel it.

III. Is It Ok To Question Your Faith?

- A. Yes! It is actually part of our growth process. Two things usually happen here. And the first one many times (not all the time) precipitates the second.
1. We encounter a crisis.
 - a) Something bad happens that is totally contrary to our preconceived ideas of God. I.e. Tragic death of a loved one. Bill Johnson, Healing through Grief, Charismas magazine
A miscarriage. A loss of job. A sickness like cancer.
 - b) Crisis has a tendency of making us ask, "Why God? Where were you?" You have to find answers to these questions but they may not be what you think.
 2. We experience a crisis of faith.
 - a) The crisis of faith is often born out of crisis.
 - b) The crisis of faith is often born out of not seeing Jesus (experiencing His presence) So we doubt the word that we know and we begin to ask questions of it.
 - c) God 'should have' . When you find yourself saying the 'should ofs' you are entering a faith crisis realm.
 3. Questions are good as long as we are looking for answers. But what happens to often is people out of hurt begin to try to disprove the word of God. Or they start reading other people opinions. Opinions are like armpits, everyone has two and most likely they stink. It is best to stick with the word and study it.
- B. Many of our spiritual 'growth spurts' happen when we are questioning God. I.e. Zacharias questions God. David questioned God. God is not scared of questions. Parents, you should not be either. DO NOT FREAK OUT WHEN YOUR CHILD SAYS I NO LONGER BELIEVE. That is what they are looking for, your control based answer. What they need is a compassionate conversation, some honesty (You were once there.)
1. A crisis of faith is a normal part of the Christian life. What is disturbing to me is way to many people abandon their faith in the midst of a crisis or a faith crisis. I.E. Did you know 25% of church goers never returned to church after Covid. To me that is a sign of the times revealing the condition of the church. We do not have our eyes on Jesus.
 - a) We are not teaching truth enough
 - b) Churches are building on relevance and not Gospel. People want to be spoon

fed self help messages and not Gospel truth.

2. Many people lost sight of Jesus while on Instagram, FB, Twitter. They are more interested in how many likes they received than if Jesus likes them. Many who were locked down became spiritually locked up because of what they gave themselves to during that time. They became disenchanted with their faith.
- C. This crisis of faith is not foreign to Bible characters.
1. John the Baptist - Luke 7:19-23 Are you the one. "Tell him the blind see..."
 - a) In a jail filled with demonic activity, preparing to die, he begins to doubt.
 - b) Did I do the right thing? He questions his purpose. What is led people astray.
 - c) Are you the one?
 2. Simon Peter - Luke 22:61-61 Peter denied him, looked in His eyes, left weeping bitterly.
 3. Thomas, one of the 12 - could not believe that Jesus rose from the dead.
 4. Judas - hung himself. Sinned against Jesus.
 5. Jeremiah: Jer 20:14-18 Jeremiah wanted to die. His life was just hard as prophet. Rejection, and persecution.
 6. Elijah - 1 Kings 19:4 Elijah wants to die after a great victory. Tired, in a spiritual low.
 7. Jonah - Jonah wished to die. Angry with God, selfishly disappointed.

Conclusion:

- "When affliction comes, a weak or nominal Christian often discovers that his faith doesn't account for it or prepare him for it. His faith has been in his church, denomination, or family tradition, or in his own religious ideas – but not in Christ." Mike Leake. Deconstructing Faith.
- Jn 12:21 Greeks *"We would see Jesus."* To be saved from your sin.
- Heb 12:2 Fix your eyes on Jesus.
- *"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."* (Psalm 16:11, ESV)
- The Holy Spirit wants us to see Jesus: *"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me"*. (John 16:13-14, NLT)