



EYES ON JESUS

LENTEN

Eyes on Jesus: Denying Eyes

As We Gather

This Lent, we will use the metaphor of eyesight to examine how the various people in Mark's Gospel viewed Jesus during His Passion. In most cases, they misunderstood who He was and what He was doing; then again, sometimes by faith people did recognize Him correctly.

We have these forty days of Lent in which we may look within ourselves as people of faith in our day. How are we like or unlike the people who saw Jesus in the flesh? Most important, as we gather for worship, we will see what Jesus has done to save us from our sins by His holy, precious blood and innocent sufferings and death.

At first, Peter and the other disciples cannot see how they could ever fall away from Jesus. Then, when Peter is spotted by a servant girl and realizes that his own neck is on the line, he sees fit to deny Jesus, which leads to his weeping in remorse. What does it take for us to move beyond our own remorse to the discipleship we and our Lord desire?

Stand

- L O Lord, open my lips,
C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
- L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
- C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

+ Psalmody +

Psalm

Psalm 27:1–

- L The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
C **When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh,**
my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.
- L Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.
C **One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:**
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.

- L For He will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high upon a rock.
- C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- L The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Office Hymn

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

+ Readings +

Reading

Isaiah

- L A reading from Isaiah, chapter 59.

¹Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; ²but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear. ³For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies; your tongue mutters wickedness. ¹²For our transgressions are multiplied before you, and our sins testify against us; for our transgressions are with us, and we know our iniquities: ¹³transgressing, and denying the LORD, and turning back from following our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart lying words.

- L O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

2

- L A reading from 2 Timothy, chapter 2.

⁸Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, ⁹for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! ¹⁰Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. ¹¹The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; ¹²if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; ¹³if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.

- L O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

L A reading from Mark, chapter 8.

²⁷And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” ³⁰And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him. ³¹And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” ³⁴And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. ³⁶For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

Mark 1

L A reading from Mark, chapter 14.

²⁶And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷And Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’” ²⁸But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” ²⁹Peter said to him, “Even though they all fall away, I will not.” ³⁰And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” ³¹But he said emphatically, “If I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And they all said the same. ⁶⁶And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, ⁶⁷and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.” ⁶⁸But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you mean.” And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. ⁶⁹And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.” ⁷⁰But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” ⁷¹But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.” ⁷²And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory

- L Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.
C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**
L In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.
C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**
L Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.
C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

Hymn

“Our Eyes Behold the Savior’s Face”

(Tune #437)

- 1 Our eyes behold the Savior’s face
And yet cannot perceive
That His perspective held our grace
Before we could believe.
- 2 Our focus flits and fails to see
The One whose steadfast gaze
Propelled Him to the darkened tree
Enveloped in death’s haze.
- 3 Our sights train on the dreadful cross.
Beneath His knowing eyes,
Our sins are bare and set for loss;
He sees us as His prize.
- 4 Our vision blurs with anxious tears
As Jesus’ eyelids fall
To conquer sin and all our fears
And tear in two our pall.
- 5 Our view scans for the coming Day
That evermore grows near,
When Jesus wipes our tears away
And all is crystal clear.

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Sermon

“Denying Eyes”

(Mark 14:26-31, 66-72)

+ Canticle +

Canticle Hymn

P The second stanza of our canticle hymn gives thanks that, in spite of our disgrace, Jesus has paid the price and calls us His own.

Canticle Hymn

“Christ, the Life of All the Living”

420, sts. 1, 4, 7

+ Prayer +

Kyrie

C Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

Lord’s Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Collects

L O Lord, hear my prayer.
C And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day

L Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that our sins of thought, word, and deed deny Your Lordship over us. Forgive us all our sins and give us strength each day to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C Amen.

Collect for Lent

- L Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C **Amen.**

Collect

- L Lord Jesus Christ, before whom all in heaven and earth shall bow, grant courage that Your children may confess Your saving name in the face of any opposition from a world hostile to the Gospel. Help them to remember Your faithful people who sacrificed much and even faced death rather than dishonor You when called upon to deny the faith. By Your Spirit, strengthen them to be faithful and to confess You boldly, knowing that You will confess Your own before the Father in heaven, with whom You and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Benedicamus

- L Let us bless the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

- P The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C **Amen.**

Hymn to Depart

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

436

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For further thought...

Denying Eyes: I'd Never Do That!

Text: Mark 14:26–31, 66–72

“I’d never do that!” Most of us have a whole bunch of things we think we’d never do. Would you eat a bug? skydive out of an airplane? lick a skunk? For some of us when we were younger, we were determined we’d never like broccoli, and now it’s one of our favorite foods. What’s on your “I’d never” list? Are you sure? How many of you would eat a bug? What if someone offered you a million dollars or you were starving to death? We think we know what we’d do when faced with stuff “we’d never do,” but it’s hard to know for sure until we’re really hungry or someone is handing us a suitcase full of money.

Not long before He died on the cross, Jesus told His disciples, “You will all fall away” (Mark 14:27). He said they would abandon Him during His time of trouble. Peter answered that he would never leave Jesus. But Jesus said that not only would Peter fall away but he would also deny even *knowing* Jesus three times that very night. However, Peter and the disciples promised that they would never leave Jesus or do anything like that. Who do you think was right: Jesus, or Peter and the disciples? Jesus knew the truth. That night, Jesus was arrested, and instead of staying with Jesus to be arrested with Him and support Him, Jesus’ disciples, including Peter, all ran away. They fell away, saving themselves instead of standing by their friend and teacher.

Peter’s night got even worse. He went to the courtyard outside of where Jesus was on trial for His life. But instead of walking up to the people in charge and volunteering to speak in defense of Jesus, he stayed quiet. And when a servant girl recognized Peter and said, “You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus” (Mark 14:67), Peter said he had no idea what she was talking about. Then, two more times, he was recognized as one Jesus’ disciples, and instead of telling those people how great Jesus is and all the miracles he’d done, Peter denied having any idea who Jesus was. Moments later, when Peter realized what he’d done, he cried and cried over his sin.

What about you? Do you know who Jesus is? Would you tell people you’re a Christian even when they might make fun of you for it? I hope so. God is with you to help you speak up for Him. And when you fail, God still forgives you—just like He forgave Peter. He keeps His promise to love and forgive us always. He keeps His promise that we will forever be His own

forgiven children.

Summary: We often sin, doing the sinful things we promised we'd never do, but God keeps His promises, forgiving our worst mistakes.