

Taking A "God Look" At Ourselves
Old Union Minister's School
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I. We blink our eyes, on the average, about twenty-five times every minute. Each blink takes about one-fifth of a second. Therefore, if you take a ten-hour automobile trip, averaging forty miles per hour, you will drive twenty miles of that trip with your eyes closed. From what I observed in Los Angeles last fall the people out there use their entire twenty miles at one time.

Sometimes we are like that concerning our spiritual life. We blink so much we never see anything but the obvious. Today I would like for us to take a "God Look" at ourselves. If we are to do this we must have God's help. We must ask the Lord, as David did in Psalms 139:23-24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

II. We need God's help as we look at ourselves because Solomon tells us in Proverbs 16:2 that, **"All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits."** Also Jeremiah wrote, **"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"** Jeremiah 17:9

III. I Samuel 16:7 tells us that God looks on the heart of man. God told Samuel to go to the house of Jesse to anoint the new king of Israel. When Samuel saw Eliab, the eldest son of Jesse, he said, **"Surely the Lord's anointed is before him. But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."**

IV. God certainly looks on the heart of man, and the heart must be made right in His eyes by the blood of His Son. Paul explains this very clear to a young preacher named Titus. He wrote in his letter to Titus 3:5-7, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." If the heart is not right, then nothing else can ever be right.

We understand that God looks on the heart of man, but we need to understand that God expects that which is in the heart to make its way to the surface of His children. I believe He expect more from those He has called to represent Him to the world. If He didn't expect a certain level of behavior from His children there would never be any chastisement, but God does chastise His children because He loves them and wants what is best for them. By using various forms of chastisement He makes us take a "God Look" at ourselves.

V. There are times when we must, at God's insistence, take a "God Look" at ourselves.

1. The first time I remember taking a "God Look" at myself was before I was saved. This is nothing new. I believe everyone that is saved must take a "God Look" at themselves before they are saved.

Luke 18:9-14 The Pharisee and the Publican.

2. The next time I really remember taking a "God Look" at myself was when the Lord called me to preach. Again this is nothing new. I suppose everyone that is truly called to preach spent some time taking a "God Look" at themselves before they surrendered their will to God's will.

I can readily identify with Moses and Isaiah, not that I am even close to a Moses or an Isaiah, but I found in my study that I experienced some of the same things that they did. Moses' call to go back to Egypt is found in Exodus 3:1 - 4:31. Isaiah's call is recorded in Isaiah 6:1-9.

3. Because of the sin in this fleshly body I have had to take a "God Look" many times since then.

Because of David's sin God sent Nathan to give him a "God Look" at himself. II Samuel 11:1 - 12:31

David thought he was looking at someone else, so he determined that death should be the punishment for the sin committed. It is much easier to look at another person and determine their faults than it is to look at our own.

VI. What did you see this morning when you looked in the mirror? Did you like what you saw? We have an image of ourselves that is somewhat different from reality. Most of us began doing things to improve the image that others would see before we went out into the public. We showered, shaved, combed our hair and brushed our teeth. We wanted to create the best image possible with what we had to work with.

What did God see when He looked at us this morning? How did we measure up to God's standards?

VII. When we look at ourselves as God sees us, what kind of standard should we use? We know that when God the Father and God the Holy Spirit looked at Jesus, They were well pleased in Him. Matthew 3:17 tells us that after Jesus was baptized by John that, **"the heavens were opened unto him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."**

John wrote, **"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love**

of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." I John 2:4-6

VIII. How do we look when compared with Jesus in:

1. His love for lost souls? "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:7-8

"Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." I John 3:1 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

2. His humility and obedience to the Father? "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:5-8

3. His submission to the Father's will? "Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little farther and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will but as thou wilt." Matthew 26:38-39
In the agony of this hour Luke tells us that, "He prayed more earnestly and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." Luke 22:44

4. His compassion? When He saw men and women searching for the truth He was moved with compassion. "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few: Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into the harvest." Matthew 9:36-38

When He saw the multitudes hungry He was moved with compassion to feed them. "Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way." Matthew 15:32

The disciples were concerned that they only had seven loaves and a few little fishes to feed so many. Jesus commanded the multitude to sit, then He blessed the seven loaves and the few little fishes that they had. Four thousand men beside the women and children were fed that day. After the multitude had eaten the disciples collected seven baskets of food that was left.

Many other scriptures relate His compassion for those that were hurting, but the one place that stands out in my mind is when He saw His people lost and scattered about without hope because they had rejected Him, He said, **"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not."** Matthew 23:37

5. Jesus did many other things that were remarkable in the eyes of the people. Many of the things He did are not recorded in the Bible. John wrote, **"And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written."** Although everything He did was not recorded, everything He did was done well. He set the supreme example.