

September 29, 2013

## EYES THAT SEE

Matthew 13:16-17

Look at Matthew 13:16-17 “**But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.**”

**17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.”**

ōEyes that seeö are öblessedö eyes. They are not öblessedö BECAUSE they öseeö. But, rather, they öseeö BECAUSE they are öblessedö. I.e. Being öblessedö is not the result of a sinner öseeingö. But, a sinner öseeingö is the result of that sinner being öblessedö. öSeeingö does not the CAUSE of öblessingö. It is the EVIDENCE of having already been öblessedö.

ōEyes that seeö are öblessedö eyes. And, WHAT do öblessedö eyes öseeö? They see:

1. What BEFORE they did not see.
2. What the NATURAL (unregenerate) man REFUSES to see.
3. What every regenerate sinner BEFORE the Cross DESIRED to see.

Look back at Matthew 13:16 “**But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.**”

öBlessedö eyes see. FIRST, they öseeö what BEFORE they did not öseeö. This is not BETTER övisionö. This is INITIAL ösightö. I.e. These eyes see things they NEVER saw before. When a sinner embraces the Gospel, it is because they have been given vision they did not have before.

In the ninth Chapter of John we have a scriptural example of a man öblessedö of God. This man did not APPEAR to be öblessedö of God. He was öblind from birthö. And, he was a beggar by the roadside. No one saw him as a man öblessedö of God. But, if you study this chapter, you will discover that it is not how this man STARTS OUT that counts, but how He ENDS UP.

This man was öblind from birthö to illustrate the (spiritual) condition of ALL without exception. Christö disciples wanted to know WHY this man was born blind. Was it because of HIS sin or the sin of his PARENTS?

Look at John 9:3 “**Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.**” He is a TYPE of those öblessedö of God. That is WHY (all) are öborn(spiritually) blindö.

Christ healed this man of his physical blindness only to expose a FURTHER öblindnessö. Although he had been given physical sight, he still did not see Christ as One worthy to be believed on and worshipped.

Look at John 9:35-36 **“Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?”**

**36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?”**

Look at John 9:37-38 **“And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.**

**38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.”**

This is a picture of Christ giving a sinner the (spiritual) SIGHT they lacked before. I.e. Bringing a sinner to ðseeö what BEFORE that sinner did not ðseeö.

Now, in case you might think I am seeing more here than is here (taking this too far), look at what Jesus says next in this discourse (John 9:39). **“And Jesus said, “For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.”**

Christ is not talking about physical sight but SPIRITUAL. He is speaking about giving SPIRITUAL sight to sinners who are SPIRITUALLY ðblind from birthö. These sinners ðsee notö. But, they are made to ðseeö.

Under the Gospel, the Spirit of God brings sinners to ðhearö the GOOD NEWS. He brings them to ðseeö the (complete) salvation God has accomplished through the doing and dying of Christ ALONE for a people of His choosing.

He gives them ðlightö; He gives them knowledge: SPECIFIC ðlightö and SPECIFIC knowledge.

Look at II Corinthians 4:6 **“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”**

The world was dark (void of light) until God commanded the light to shine. And, the heart of a spiritually dead sinner is void of THIS ðlightö until it is shined.

Most of you are familiar with our radio and newspaper ads called, SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT. In line with our lesson today, here is a question for everyone hearing or seeing this message, ðUnder the Gospel what do YOU ðseeö that BEFORE (you heard the Gospel) you did not ðseeö? Be specific. Be honest.

ðBlessedö eyes start out in spiritual darkness. But, by the mercy and grace of God, ðblessedö eyes don't continue there. ðBlessedö eyes are confronted by ðthe glory of God in the face of Jesus Christö. And, ðblessedö eyes don't ignore or reject this NEW FOUND knowledge. ðBlessedö eyes see. They ðseeö how God is just (how He is doing right) to save sinners and to eternally bless them based on the imputed righteousness of Christ ALONE. They (readily and thankfully) ðseeö what BEFORE they did not see. (Outline.)

SECONDLY, ðblessedö eyes ðseeö what the NATURAL man (the unregenerate man) REFUSES to ðseeö.

The parable of the soils is about different types of hearers. It speaks of sinners who hear the Gospel, but for various reasons go (virtually) unchanged by its revelation. In Matthew 13 where we are studying today Christ taught this parable, as well as, others to multitudes. When Christ's disciples were alone with Him, they asked Him why He spoke to the multitudes in parables.

(Put these scriptures up together.) **Look** at His answer in Matthew 13:11 **“He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.”** Look also at Mark 4:11 **“And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:”**

It is given unto YOU to know. It is given unto those who are blessed of God; it is given unto those who are HEIRS of the kingdom of heaven. It is given unto YOU to know. It is given unto YOU to have the mysteries of YOUR blessedness (all spiritual blessings in Christ) revealed to you.

BUT (contrast), (Mark adds a little phrase that makes this contrast a little more distinct.) **unto them that are without.** This is ANOTHER group of sinners. These are those WITHOUT the blessing of God; those who are NOT heirs of the kingdom of heaven. These are those to whom the KNOWLEDGE of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven is NOT given.

Christ continues His description and distinction of these two groups of sinners. Look at verse 12 **“For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.”**

Luke also recorded this parable of the soils (or hearers). I like the way he remembered Christ's exhortation to his hearers in connection with this verse.

Look at Luke 8:18 **“Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.”**

The contrast is between the HAVES and the HAVE NOTS. To SOME will be given. THEY will have abundance. THEY will CONTINUE to be given. THEY will be given MORE understanding. THEIR eyes will see MORE and MORE. THEIR ears will hear BETTER and BETTER. Who are THEY? THEY are those that have (whosoever hath).

THESE are contrasted with THOSE who have not. THESE are those will not only NOT be given, but what THEY seem to have will be taken from them. Christ describes THESE (whosoever hath not) in great detail.

Look at Matthew 13:13-15 **“Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.**

**14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:**

**15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."**

So, the contrast is given. Those who HAVE, (to THEM) will be õgivenö. But, those who HAVE NOT will not only NOT be given, but even what they õseemö to have will be taken.

Have WHAT? Have not WHAT? WHAT does one õhaveö that brings God's abundance and another õhave notö which robs them of even what they õseemö to have? This MUST be answered.

Ultimately, what SOME õhaveö is the eternal õblessingö of God. Ephesians 1 says that SOME have been õblessed with all spiritual blessings in Christö. And, that these SOME were blessed õbefore the foundation of the worldö (Ephesians 1: 3-4). Paul wrote to Timothy that God's õpurpose and graceö were given to SOMEö And, (again) given õbefore the world beganö (II Timothy 1:9).

But, SPECIFICALLY, what SOME õhaveö and OTHERS õhave notö is an understanding of and a regard for the redemptive glory of God. How can God remain JUST and yet show mercy a sinner who only deserves His eternal wrath? This is the knowledge and regard that BEGINS to identify and distinguish every regenerate sinner. It is the knowledge and regard that BEGINS to identify and distinguish those who õhaveö.

The exhortation is to those hearing the Gospel. Look back at Luke 8:18 **"Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have."**

The exhortation is to õhearersö of the Gospel. Be careful HOW you hear the Gospel. Review the four types of õhearersö.

Those who õhaveö a regard for God's redemptive glory will (continue) to be õgivenö (They will õhave more abundanceö). These are the õgood ground hearersö. They are those whose hearts the Spirit of God has prepared to receive the seed (Gospel). They will bear and bring forth fruit, õsome an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirtyö.

These are contrasted with those who have NO REGARD for God's redemptive glory. These are those who hear the Gospel but REFUSE to õseeö (REFUSE to perceive) the NECESSITY of the Savior and salvation it declares.

The scriptures began to demonstrate this CONTRAST right after the fall. Able õhadö a regard for God's redemptive glory. How do we know? His sacrifice pictured his UNWORTHINESS, as well as, the WORTHINESS of the One his sacrifice typified. I can KNOW that because Able (his person) and his sacrifice were ACCEPTED by God. Cain on the other hand had NO REGARD for God's redemptive glory. He came HIS way. He set his own standard. And, he and his sacrifice were rejected.

Jacob had a regard for God's redemptive glory. He sought the birthright. He HAD TO have it. He used whatever means it took to get it. Esau had no regard for the birthright. He let it go for a bowl of soup.

The scribes and Pharisees of Christ's day SEEMED to have the blessing of God. They (and everybody else) thought so. But, in the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican, it was the Pharisee who went down to his house UNJUSTIFIED, rather than the Publican, who came seeking God's mercy ALONE.

The Pharisees saw Christ's miracles and heard His message. But, they rejected both and sought to put Christ to death. They were not turned (converted) by Christ's Gospel. Consequently, some of Christ's harshest words were spoken to the scribes and Pharisees who taught the people of His day. He called them "whited sepulchers; blind leaders of the blind; those who trusted in themselves that they were righteous. He warned His disciples and those of His generation to "Beware of their doctrine, which is hypocrisy (Luke 12:1).

It is a dangerous (even deadly) thing to hear the Gospel (wherein the righteousness of God is revealed) and go on unaffected, unconverted, unturned by the righteousness which the Gospel ALWAYS reveals. The Scriptures have much to say to sinners who are exposed to the light (the Gospel) and REJECT its clear testimony. To do so is to judge yourself unworthy of eternal life.

Look at Acts 13:45-46 **"But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. 46 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles."**

To reject the Gospel is to reject Christ. It is to reject God, who sent Christ. It is to align yourself with those upon whom God's eternal wrath abides.

Look at John 3:36 **"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."**

It is a blessing to see the NECESSITY of the Christ whom God has given (Or, as Randy preached a couple of Sundays ago, to see the NECESSARY Christ). The Gospel is always a savor of life to some and a savor of death to others. But, the problem is NEVER the message. The problem is ALWAYS the hearer.

Christ has done EVERYTHING necessary for those He represented to stand immutably and eternally righteous in the sight of God. Sinners cannot blame God for their REJECTION of such a Savior, such a salvation. They cannot blame God for their REJECTION of a salvation that is COMPLETE in Christ ALONE. They cannot blame God for rejecting a salvation that EXCLUDES every condition IN the sinner.

Hearing the Gospel is a privilege, not to be taken lightly. It is a sinner's response to the Gospel that declares (gives evidence) of their standing before God. That is what Christ told Nicodemus.

Quote John 3: 16. Look at John 3:18-20 **“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**

**19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.**

**20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.”**

Contrary to POPULAR interpretation, this context of scripture is NOT telling sinners that if they will believe on Christ they will deliver themselves from condemnation. It is NOT telling sinners to believe that Christ died for them and they get saved. It IS telling sinners that the condemnation or justification of sinners is being manifested (made known) by the light. The light is the Gospel (wherein the righteousness of God is revealed).

Hear the good news of the Gospel. It is declaring a Savior who has done EVERYTHING to deliver the sinners He died for from the wrath they deserve and to give them an unchangeable standing of righteousness in God's sight. It is declaring a salvation that is COMPLETE in Christ ALONE. It commands sinners to look to Christ and repent of your evil (imagining yourself saved any other way).

The command and encouragement of the Scriptures is to not CONTINUE among those who hear the good news of the Gospel and yet GO ON in rejection of it.

(Outline.) Blessed eyes are eyes that see. By the mercy and grace of God, THEY see what multitudes in their successive generations REFUSE to see.

The THIRD thing blessed eyes see: THEY see what every justified and regenerated sinner BEFORE the Cross DESIRED to see.

Look at Matthew 13:17 **“For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.”**

Everything given to the prophets and righteous men mentioned was in prophecy and promise. It was in picture and type. They DESIRED to see the prophecies and promises fulfilled. They DESIRED to see the Antitype. They DESIRED to see the Incarnate Christ. They DESIRED to see the One who would dwell (tabernacle) among men. They DESIRED to see righteousness established by Christ IN THE EARTH. They DESIRED to see in Person what they all saw (by faith) in promise, prophecy, picture and type.

Look at 1 Peter 1:9-11 **“Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.**

**10 ¶ Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:**

**11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.”**

(Outline.) ðBlessedö eyes are eyes that ðseeö. And, ðblessedö eyes ðseeö:

1. What BEFORE they did not see.
2. What the NATURAL (unregenerate) man REFUSES to see.
3. What every regenerate sinner BEFORE the Cross DESIRED to see.

The parable of the ðhearersö describes four types of ðhearersö. All of them heard the Gospel. But, only one of them ðsawö the Savior and the complete salvation it identifies. You have heard the Gospel. Which group will you align yourself with?

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