

The last few weeks, we've talked about some amazing aspects of the human body. Our ability to walk upright & our amazing hands enable us to do all sorts of unique things that no other animal can do. We looked at Jesus & His walk & hands to see how they relate to us. This got me thinking about other aspects of the human body & how Jesus employed them during His perfect life. For instance, the five senses – vision, hearing, smell, taste & touch – all work together in amazingly intricate ways in humans. Even though we have these amazing senses, we are flawed & don't employ them to perfection. Jesus, however, is perfect. In Jesus, His five senses were all elevated and perfectly tuned to doing the will of God. So I thought that we could take a look at our five senses & how Jesus used them to better understand ourselves and our walk with Him in this life.

The first sense that I'd like to explore is vision. Vision is commonly listed as the top sense that people *do not want to lose!* Think about how incredibly hard & dangerous life is for a blind person. But despite the fact that people don't want to lose their vision, many don't fully appreciate how amazing human eyes are & how intricate our system for seeing really is. The human eye is a living, self-lubricating, self-cleaning, self-repairing camera (even modern a super-complex modern digital camera can fix itself...). It has a flexible, rubber-like lens that allows for incredible focus. It has a complex structure of muscles & nerves that control the light coming into the pupil. It has various receptors to all day & night vision (rods & cones). At night, our eyes can see a flickering candle at a distance of 30 miles. Working with the eye's 10 million photo receptor, the human brain's 12 billion cells processes 50 trillion simultaneous nonlinear differential equations every second to produce what we call eyesight.

The human eye is incredible evidence of God "*The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the Lord has made them both*" (**Proverbs 20:12**). And even Charles Darwin stated that "*to suppose that the eye, with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest possible degree*" [C.R. Darwin, *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*, 1859].

We all have the gift of sight. But just because we have that sense, we don't always see everything in front of us. Anybody ever step in dog crap? It was right in front you to see, but whoops!!! How about potholes... Boom! In fact, we can "miss the forest for the trees" meaning we can miss important things that are right in front of us. Our vision is imperfect.

But Jesus didn't suffer from poor vision. Jesus has perfect vision & saw the world as it truly is. He saw situations for what they were. He saw people the way God does. He could see great potential in some, great pain in others, and evil intentions & hypocrisy still in others. Jesus could see right into the human heart! So let's look at Jesus' eyes & see how He saw things. Jesus has...

1. **Eyes of Optimism:** Jesus saw the potential & the future good in others (Mt 4:17-19 *One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" Mt 16:18* [Jesus said] "Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it."
2. **Eyes of Compassion:** Jesus saw people's needs without judging them (Mt 14:14 *Jesus saw the huge crowd as He stepped from the boat & He had compassion on them & healed their sick. Mt 9:20-22* *Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for 12 years came up behind Jesus & touched the edge of His cloak. She said to herself, "If I only touch His cloak, I will be healed."* Jesus turned & saw her. "Take heart daughter," He said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment. **Jn 11:33** *When Jesus saw her weeping & the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit & troubled.*
3. **Eyes of Opportunity:** Jesus saw problems as opportunities to point people to God (**Jn 9:1-3, 6-7** *As Jesus was walking along, He saw a man who had been blind from birth. "Rabbi," his disciples asked him, "why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents' sins? It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins," Jesus answered. "This happened so the power of God could be seen in him. Then He [Jesus] spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and spread the mud over the blind man's eyes. He told him, "Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam" (Siloam means "sent"). So the man went and washed and came back seeing!"*
4. **Eyes of Wisdom & Discernment:** Jesus saw evil for what it is- destruction & death. **Lk 10:18** *Jesus said to them, "I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning."*
5. **Eyes on Eternity:** Jesus looked at people with eternity on His heart. He saw them with an eternal perspective. (**Mk 10:17-18a, 19-21** **Mk 10:17-18a, 19-21** *As Jesus started to leave, a man ran to him & fell on his knees before Jesus. The man asked, "Good teacher, what must I do to have life forever?" Jesus answered, "...You know the commands: 'You must not murder anyone. You must not be guilty of adultery. You must not steal. You must not tell lies about your neighbor. You must not cheat. Honor your father & mother.'" The man said, "Teacher, I've obeyed all these things since I was a boy." Jesus, looking at the man, loved him and said, "There is one more thing you need to do. Go and sell everything you have & give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me."*
6. **Eyes on God:** Jesus never took His eyes off God or God's mission **Jn 5:19** *So Jesus explained, "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself. He does only what He sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does."*

So what about us? We have the amazing gift of sight, but you can look at something without really seeing it. Our eyes can work perfectly in a physical sense, but we can still be majorly blind to the world & to the things of the spiritual world. So Jesus asked this really hard question in **Mk 8:18a**: "*Do you have eyes but fail to see...*" (**FOLKS, THIS QUESTION IS NOT JUST FOR YOU, IT'S FOR ME & EVERYBODY HERE TONIGHT!**).

Do we have eyes, but fail to see the potential in others or are we prejudging them because of our short-sightedness? Do we see the needs of others or are we blinded by our own wants, needs, and bad attitudes? Do we see problems as the opportunities to help others & bring God glory, or do we see problems only as negatives to be avoided at all costs? Do we see evil for what it is, or are we blinded by its temptations & lies? Do we see what Jesus is doing & follow Him, or have we taken our eyes off God & His plan for our life?

Folks, we just sang "*Give Me Your Eyes*". It's a great song, but to me it's much more to me: it's a prayer that I hope we can all pray tonight: Jesus, open our eyes, help us see in the way You see. Help us to have eyes that see optimistically into the lives of the people around us. Help us to have eyes that see the needs of others around us without a judgmental heart. Jesus, help us to see this world's problems as opportunities to help point people to God. Lord, help us have eye to see evil for what it really is: a trap of destruction & death. God, help us to fix our eyes on Jesus & His path for us. **Heb 12:2 (CEV)** *We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete. He endured the shame of being nailed to a cross, because He knew that later on He would be glad He did. Now He is seated at the right side of God's throne!* Amen!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1a. Human vision/eyesight is truly amazing. What's one of the greatest things you've ever personally seen?
- 1b. Eyes can also see bad, sad, terrible or destructive things. What is something in this vein that you've personally seen in your life?
2. Tonight, we learned that Jesus sees things perfectly. Let's look at His way of seeing things by analyzing the 6 points listed in the *Eyes of Jesus* (below), reading the associated Bible scriptures & discussing what each point means for us in this world today.

THE EYES OF JESUS

1. **Eyes of Optimism:** Jesus saw the potential & the future good in others
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Mt 16:18 [Jesus said] *“Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.”*
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Mt 14:14 *Jesus saw the huge crowd as He stepped from the boat & He had compassion on them & healed their sick.*
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Jn 5:19 *So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself. He does only what He sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.”*

3. Let's read the chorus of “Give Me Your Eyes”: *Give me Your eyes for just one second. Give me Your eyes so I can see everything that I keep missing. Give me Your love for humanity. Give me Your arms for the broken-hearted, the ones that are far beyond my reach. Give me Your heart for the ones forgotten. Give me Your eyes so I can see.* **Question:** What might we see differently if Jesus gave us His eyes “for just one second”?
4. God's Word tells us what to do with our eyes in Heb 12:2: *“We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us & makes our faith complete. He endured the shame of being nailed to a cross, because He knew that later on He would be glad He did. Now He is seated at the right side of God’s throne!”* How does keeping your eyes focused on Jesus help you see in this world/ Why is this focus on Him so important?
5. Jesus asked us all a very tough question in Mk 8:18a: *“Do you have eyes but fail to see...?”* Do you have any areas in your life that you need improved vision? What needs to change?