

## Jesus Saw...

A year or two ago we devoted a quarter of the adult bible class endeavoring to see *Jesus* as He really was/is rather than just how we want perceive Him. This is vital if we're going to *think, feel, and act like Jesus* (as per last week's lesson). But we not only need to see *Jesus* clearly/correctly, we also need to **see what/who He saw...**

The importance of *seeing*: it **illuminates** the *whole body*, Matt.6:22-23; but requires **more than just merely looking**, Jas.1:23-24 (*katanoeo*- to *behold* or even to *observe fully*, v.23 vs. *parakupto*- to *stoop/bend down to see*, v.25)

To **really see** (as opposed to just *noticing*, cp.Matt.9:23) we have to be willing to **really look** (obviously, *Jesus saw/could see* things which we cannot, cf. John 1:47-50).

Therefore, **let's take a closer look at what/who Jesus saw:**

- **Zaccheus, Luke 19:1-9**; Jesus **saw** a man no one else apparently noticed, or at least everyone else dismissed because of his *physical condition, occupation, or wealth*. Don't let someone's *physical condition, occupation, or wealth* prevent you from *seeing* their soul in need.
- **Samaritan Woman, John 4**; Jesus **saw** a *soul in present need of salvation* (and *potential*, cf. vv.28-29,39) whereas everyone else could only see her *gender, nationality, and past*, vv.27,9,18. Don't let someone's *gender* (even if they're confused about it!), *nationality*, or *past/present* deter you from "seeing" their *soul's need and potential* (people saw a *persecutor* in Saul of Tarsus, Jesus saw a great *preacher!*).
- **Sheep in need of a Shepherd, Mark 6:30-34**; the people *saw* and *recognized* Jesus (but they were primarily looking for *physical food and healing*), but He *saw* in the them (because He was *looking with compassion*) the need for *spiritual food, spiritual healing, and spiritual leadership*. Some, even many, come to "church" looking for the wrong (physical) things- don't allow their *felt* needs prevent you from seeing their *real* (spiritual) needs.
- **Wrong attitudes/perspectives and children, Mark 10:14-16 (cf. Luke 1:17)**; Jesus **saw** (and rebuked/corrected) bad attitudes/perspectives and corrected them. He also **saw** in children the essence of the kingdom of God, cf. Matt.18:3. But we must also understand, from Matt.18:25 that children were then (and now?) considered *property* that could be *sold* to pay a debt. We must, and Jesus did, see children as precious *gifts from God* (Psa.127:4), and the essence of the kingdom, rather than disposable property or mere accessories.
- **Spiritual intelligence and nearness to salvation, Mark 12:28-34a** (cf. 11:27 – 12:27 for context); Jesus **saw** spiritual intelligence and nearness to the kingdom. In *the harvest* of souls, we often look to foreign fields and those still needing a lot of *planting and watering* (cf. 1Cor.3:8ff). Jesus "saw" these as evidenced above, and so should we; but He also "saw" those that had *spiritual intelligence and nearness to the kingdom*. We, too, should "see" the "ripe" or "low-hanging" fruit- those who already *believe in God/Christ/Bible*, and simply need someone to "*explain to him the way of God more accurately*," Acts 18:26. Jesus and His

disciples/apostles after Him, sought and saw first those who had an already present interest in and appreciation for things *spiritual*; the “churched” but misguided. Jesus “saw” *spiritual intelligence* and *nearness to the kingdom*, and so should we.

## Conclusions

- There are many more such illustrations and principles involved with “seeing” what Jesus “saw.” Perhaps these can serve as a starting point for more a more in depth personal study for you. But nonetheless,
- As much as we need to *think, feel, and act* like Jesus, it all begins with *looking* and *seeing* what Jesus *looked at* and therefore *saw!* We may see the world’s state of turmoil, hardship, ignorance, rebellion, and vanity- which are plainly visible, but are we willing to *look* and *see* “*the fields, that they are white for harvest,*” John 4:35?
- Do we see the *individuals* in our families, at our workplaces, in and round our neighborhoods, with whom we recreate/socialize or do business? They all have *souls* God desires to save, 1Tim.2:4; Jesus came and died to save, Luke 19:10; and the Spirit revealed the gospel to save, Rom.1:16... if we will just see and *help* them.