

## What Are You Looking At?

When I was in my late teens and 20s I used to ask this question every time I would perceive someone looking at me with a negative thought in their mind about me. Notice I said "I would perceive". Sometimes my perception would be right on target and sometimes not so much. I was always looking for a reason to fight or argue someone down. These were in my college years and progressed even after I graduated. There was a lot of sass behind my question.

Now I am asking that same question with the same amount of sass but with an entirely different motive. What are you looking at? This is specifically for those that believe in our Lord Jesus Christ. It is also a sign to those who do not believe because we are to show Jesus Christ in us to them by our actions. If they do not see Him in us why would they come to Him? As a believer, what do you see when you look at others? Do you see how they used to be, how they are, or how they can be by the Spirit of the living God? Do you see others through the eyes of God or through your own eyes? I ask because this has been my prayer for myself for a few years now; to see people (believers and non-believers) the way Jesus sees them.

I write out of my personal experiences, whatever my personal questions for my walk with the Lord are, or whatever the Lord wants His people to know. This word has been on my heart all week and the Lord gave me a dream this past weekend to solidify this word.

In the dream I was in a church building. The building was in ruins. The pews were in disorder (seats/placement of the people), the foundation was cracked to a dangerous level (it was hard to walk-like a building looks after an earthquake), and there was hardly anyone (some were present) there to fix up the place. Then I saw a homeless man. He was looking for a place to find peace and comfort. He came into this church with clothes torn, hair a mess, and unclean. He came to me and asked what was happening. I told him we were trying to get the church back in order.

The people that were there trying to put things in order were in two groups. One group was huddled together in the back gossiping and snickering about the group that was in the front reorganizing the pews and fixing the foundation. I asked the man to have a seat and told him to just relax while things were being put back together. He decided he didn't want to do that. Instead he came alongside those of us in the front. He helped me and others lift the pews and put them in order then he helped those who were responsible for fixing the broken foundation. As he was working he would stop often to look at those that were snickering in the back. In the dream I could see his heart sink with worry that he was doing something wrong. Myself and a few others would sit with him while taking breaks encouraging him that he is doing nothing wrong but actually becoming part of something greater than himself. The more encouraged he felt the more his appearance changed. His clothes were becoming cleaner and he began to look more at home and like he had a home. The dream ended with the front group continually working under the guidance of a supervisor who told us to keep a gap between the front and the back.

This dream is a warning directly from God to all of us (myself included). It is not difficult to go from one group to another when we work from our natural senses and in our own strength. We too often come to a place of "I am better than that person because...". I again ask what are you looking at?

**Luke 18:9-14 - Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."**

Right now the Lord is correcting His church. He is using ways that are not considered traditional as He always has.

**1 Corinthians 1:26-31 - For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— 31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."**

**Jeremiah 9:23-24 - Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; 24 But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the Lord.**

I encourage us all to take our hearts to the Throne of Grace and ask God to correct us. Ask the Lord what it is you are looking at. Are we looking at Him to see how He sees people and situations or are we looking at ourselves and seeing how we choose to see? If a homeless man walks into any church how would he be received? How would he be judged by the attendees? Are we perceiving anyone as less than or better than us?

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=P5AkNqLuVgY>

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