

THE EYES OF THE LORD

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WE KNOW THAT GOD SEES EVERYTHING

- Proverbs 15:3; The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.
- Proverbs 5:21; For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and he ponders all his paths.
- Psalm 33:18; Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love,
- 2 Chronicles 16:9; For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him...

THE EYES OF THE LORD SEE GOOD AND BAD

- 2 Chronicles 14:2; And Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God.
- 1 Kings 15:5; because David did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and did not turn aside from anything that he commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.
- Genesis 6:8; But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.
- 2 Chronicles 28:1; Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as his father David had done,

HOW IS IT THAT WE BEHAVE AS IF HE CAN'T SEE US?

- Do we forget that the Lord sees all?
- Do we think that we can hide from God?
- Jeremiah 23:24; Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD.
- Psalm 139:11–12; If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,”¹² even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.
- Jeremiah 16:17; For my eyes are on all their ways. They are not hidden from me, nor is their iniquity concealed from my eyes.
- Would it make a difference if we could see the eyes of the Lord looking at us?

A POSTURE OF PRAYER IN JESUS' DAY

- Luke 18:11–13; The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, **would not even lift up his eyes to heaven**, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’
- John 17:1; When Jesus had spoken these words, **he lifted up his eyes to heaven**, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,
- Psalm 123:1–2; **To you I lift up my eyes**, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! ² Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us.

THE DIFFERENCE THAT JESUS MADE

- The incarnation made eye contact with the Lord possible!

EYE CONTACT WITH THE LORD

- Luke 22:54–62; Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵ And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. ⁵⁶ Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." ⁵⁷ But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." ⁵⁸ And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." ⁵⁹ And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean." ⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." ⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly.

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE CRUCIFIXION WAS A VERY BAD NIGHT FOR PETER

- Peter protested Jesus washing his feet (John 13:8)
- Peter made four emphatic declarations of loyalty to Jesus
 - “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” (Luke 22:31-33)
 - “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” (John 13:37)
 - “Though they all fall away because of you, I will lay down my life for you.” (Matthew 26:33)
 - “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you.” (Matthew 26:35)
- Even though Jesus asked Peter, James and John to watch with him, Peter and the other slept (Matthew 26:40)
- Jesus rebuked Peter for drawing his sword and cutting off the ear of the high priest’s servant Malchus (John 18:11)
- Peter denied Jesus three times (Mark 14:72)

THE FIRST DENIAL

- John 18:15–18; Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶ but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ The servant girl at the door said to Peter, “You also are not one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” ¹⁸ Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.
- Luke 22:56; Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, “This man also was with him.”

THE SECOND DENIAL

- Matthew 26:71; And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”
- Mark 14:69; And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.”
- Luke 22:58; And a little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not.”
- John 18:25; Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You also are not one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.”

THE THIRD DENIAL

- Luke 22:59–60; And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.”⁶⁰ But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.
- Matthew 26:73; After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.”
- John 18:26; One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?”
- Mark 14:71; But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.”

THE WORDS OF PETER'S DENIAL

- **Deceiving Words**
 - He denied being with Christ (Matthew 26:69-70)
 - He denied being one of Jesus' disciples (John 18:17,25)
 - He denied knowing Jesus (Matthew 26:72,74)
 - He denied even understanding the accusation (Mark 14:68)
- **Dishonoring Words**
 - Previously Peter had called Jesus "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16), Lord and Master.
 - In his denial, he refers to Jesus as "the man" (Matthew 26:72,74) and "this man of whom you speak" (Mark 14:71).

THE WORDS OF PETER'S DENIAL

- Deserting Words

- That evening, Jesus was “tried” before Jewish leaders and false accusations were made against Jesus
- Peter should have spoken the truth in Jesus’ defense
- Instead, Peter was speaking falsely about himself

- Defiling Words

- Peter tried to enforce his denials by cursing and swearing (Matthew 26:74)
- The words mean to call a curse down upon himself if what he says is not true and to take an oath that what he says is true.
- This was not done in a solemn and truthful way.
- Because he was not sincere, his words were profane (unholy).

THE EYES OF THE LORD

- Mark 14:72; And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.
- Luke 22:61–62; And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.”⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly.

MAMA'S LOOK BY LISA HILERS

I can still feel the sting of Mama's look,
Remember? That look you always got-
The one she always gave- The one where
you just knew- You knew you'd best stop-

Didn't matter what you were doing-
Didn't matter where you were-
Didn't matter at all, why you were doing it-
You felt it rise, like a mad cat's furr

You knew better than to doubt her-
not to do what she didn't say-
she spoke a silent language-
in her own special sort of way

She'd best not have to reach for you,
or even let the thought cross her mind-
for if she did, you knew the consequence-
of a switch 'cross your behind

I can still feel that sting too-
from the switch you had to pick-
But you knew better than to choose-
a wimpy, lame, or rotten stick

'cause if she had to go get it herself-
if she had to make that choice-
you knew right away your fatal mistake,
by the sound of her screechy voice

What I remember most of all,
but never quite understood-
was her claim of it hurting her worse,
and it was always for my own good!

Maybe it was and maybe it wasn't,
but I got through life just fine-
It was Mama's look; and bedtime hug-
that always kept me in line

THE EYES OF THE LORD

- What do you think Jesus' eyes said to Peter in that moment?
 - Do you think it was a look of "I told you so!"
 - Do you think it was a look of "Look what you have done to me!"
- Jesus' look at Peter produced:
 - A recalling of the word -- Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." (Luke 22:61)
 - Godly sorrow (grief) that leads to repentance (2 Cor. 7:10)
 - A turning point to rise from Satan's sifting (Luke 22:31–33)
- When we have been sifted by Satan, what will Jesus' look produce in us?
 - Will we remember his word? Will it produce Godly sorrow? Will it be a turning point to rise from Satan's sifting?

THE RICH YOUNG RULER

- Mark 10:17–22; And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”¹⁸ And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’”²⁰ And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.”²¹ ***And Jesus, looking at him, loved him,*** and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”²² Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.
- See also Matthew 19:16-22

JESUS EXPRESSES HIS LOVE WHEN HE TELLS US WHAT WE DON'T WANT TO HEAR

- Mark 10:21; And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “***You lack one thing***: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”
- The one thing that prevented this young man from having eternal life was the security of his wealth.
- In economic terms Jesus tells the man that the opportunity cost of eternal life is to give up everything he has.
- He is still looking for a way to gain eternal life AND keep his money.
- Is there one thing you lack?
- What is the opportunity cost of eternal life to you?
- What is your choice?

DO YOU HAVE TIME FOR GOD?



too young to
think about
God



too self sufficient
to think about God



too much
happy
to think
about God..

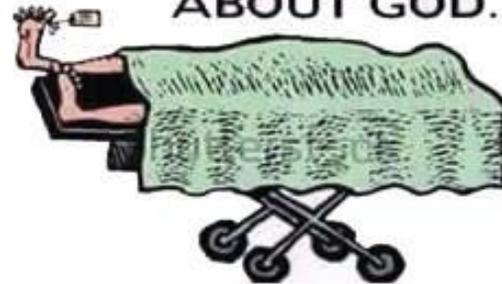


too tired to think
about God..



too busy to think
about God..

**TOO LATE
TO THINK
ABOUT GOD..**



Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts..." Hebrews 3:7-8a

THE EYES OF THE LORD

- Look of anger and grief, because of unbelief. “Looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts” (Mark 3:5).
- Look of recognition and oneness. “And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers!” (Mark 3:34).
- Look of inquiry and encouragement. “And he looked around to see who had done it.” (Mark 5:32).
- Look of rebuke. “But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” (Mark 8:33).
- Look of discouragement. “And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” (Mark 10:23).
- Look of stimulus. “Jesus looked at them and said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.” (Mark 10:27).
- Look of inspection. “When He had looked round about upon all things” (Mark 11:11).

STEPHEN AND THE EYES OF THE LORD

- Acts 7 records Stephen's review of the history of Jewish unfaithfulness and it so enraged the Jewish audience that they "ground their teeth at him"
- Acts 7:55–56; But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."
- This resulted in Stephen becoming the first Christian Martyr.
- Even though there is no description of the Lord's eyes, I believe the Lord's eyes were gazing upon Stephen approving of his faith and message.