

THE EYES OF CHRIST
Sermon Series on “The Incarnation and the Body of Christ” --Revelation 1: 8-18 --July 8, 2012
The Church of the Covenant

Have you ever wondered what Jesus actually looked like in the flesh? I think every Christian has a picture in their mind of what the Master looks like. Indeed, I think there is part of being a Christian that longs for that day when we shall see Him as He is, we shall see Him *“face-to-face”* as the Bible says. We shall see *“the glory of God in the face of Christ.”* What will it be like in that day when we go to be with the Lord and we get to look Him deeply in the eyes; and He looks deeply into ours; and we are staring into the soul of God and He into our souls????

There is no exact description of Jesus in the Bible. But there are some hints. God has become incarnate in His Son. The One who was not-to-be-depicted, no pictorial representation was ever to be rendered of Him, no portrait ever made of him in life, has now rendered a rendering of Himself in the flesh, in His Son. We SEE God when we SEE Jesus our Lord. Isaiah 53: 2 describes the Messiah as One who *“had no form or comeliness that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.”* He was not handsome and did not have the looks of a rock star. He was probably a short Jewish guy with thinning hair. His beauty was not an external beauty; it was an internal beauty of His heart and soul. There was something about Jesus that drew men and women unto Him and unto His Father in heaven. Personally, and I admit this is purely speculative on my part, but I believe there was something extraordinary about the eyes of the Son of God. The eyes, it has been said, are the windows to the soul. And to look deeply into the eyes of Jesus was to see into the very soul of God. One look from the Savior and you were never the same again. Beloved, search the eyes of Christ and your life will never be the same.

Think about it. Jesus comes up to fisherman by the Sea of Galilee and says, *“Come, follow me.”* And as it says, *“Immediately they dropped their nets and followed Him.”* Any regular person comes up to a stranger and says, “Come, follow me”, we are not likely to follow. But if the Son of God comes up to you, looks you directly in the eye, and says, “Follow me”, to HIM, for Jesus, we would follow. We have given up everything, cry the disciples, to follow You, Jesus. What manner of man is this? What was held in His eyes? What depth? What love? What compassion? What hint of eternity was held there as you look into the eyes of Jesus? By the way, today, the Lord Jesus Christ is coming up to you, right in these moments, right beside you in the pew, is looking into your eyes, spiritually speaking, and is asking you, personally, to come and to follow Him. Haven’t you always wanted to SEE God? Then come and follow Jesus. Lay down your nets, beloved, and follow the Master with all your heart, mind and strength!

“Let light shine out of darkness”, who has shown into our heart to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 4: 6) To look Jesus face to face is to see God’s light shining back at you. To see the GLORY of God shining back at you is to have a deep and abiding SAVING knowledge of God. To have a saving knowledge of God is to have Jesus Christ shining into our hearts. That’s what shines in the eyes of Jesus. One look into the eyes of Jesus and all eternity and the glory of God and the light of God stares back at us. Do you SEE God? Do you experience God at work in your life? Has God’s light shown into your heart? Have you come to a saving knowledge of God through His Son? Have you ever deeply looked into the eyes of Christ? No man, no woman, no child, no young person, can ever look into the eyes of Christ and ever be the same.

Prior to my call into ministry, some 30 years ago now, I had a thrice recurring dream that as I look back over it I believe had great spiritual significance for my life and call and ministry. The dream was this. I was in bed in my parent’s home on Friar Lane in McMurray and there was a high window in my

bedroom. There were two eyes seemingly glaring at me, they were like eyes filled with fire and their glowing felt ominous. It was one of those highly realistic dreams. It was not, you know, I ate a pepperoni pizza too late at night kind of dream. It would fill me with great fear. I would hide under my covers, but there was no place to hide. Were the eyes evil? Who were they? I would awaken in the morning and my bedclothes would be all a-tumble and my pajamas soaking wet. I had the dream once. And then several months later I had the dream a second time. Exactly the same dream. This was at a time when I was struggling with my call into ministry. God was powerfully at work in me. Was I evil? Was I right with God? Was the dream a warning to clean up my own life? But then I had the dream a third time and it began exactly the same way, with the eyes of flame staring at me from the high window in my bedroom. But this time the dream was different. Because the eyes then moved toward me and came to rest over my own. The eyes that were seeking me out now came and superimposed themselves over my own eyes. What did it mean? What did it mean? It is now perhaps two years later and I am in seminary and taking a course on the book of Revelation. For whatever reason I had never read the passage we just read today as our scripture lesson. But as I read it I realized that the description of Jesus Christ rendered there is the depiction of the eyes I saw staring at me through the window in my dream. *"HIS eyes were like a flame of fire..." (Revelation 1: 14)* The eyes of flame in my dream were the eyes of Christ. This completely reinterpreted the dream and its significance for me.

I think we may be afraid as frail human beings to stare into the eyes of Jesus for fear that we receive the searing, burning coals of judgment in return. We are afraid that when God looks into our soul He will see sin and evil and all that we have done that is not pleasing to us in our life. We will be found wanting. That is our fear. And as a pastor, I will tell you, that my heart so often aches for people who have gotten themselves caught up in sin, or that they are self-delusional, thinking they are righter than right but indeed far away from God, or that they will seem so over the top righteous but be so angry about it all that the fruit of the Spirit just couldn't possibly dwell in them, or that they throw away something—a marriage, beautiful children, respect in their community, their church and church family—over something dumb that they just cannot let go of somehow. The eyes that Jesus has given me are not eyes of judgment, they are His eyes. They are eyes of compassion, of a certain sadness where people do not know what they are throwing away by their sin, or their attitudes or their deeds. There is no longer any condemnation in Jesus Christ, as the scriptures say, so we need never fear that when the eyes of Christ come and they stare deeply into our souls that somehow He will reject us, or turn us away, or find us unfit for His Kingdom. Rather, if we truly take on the eyes of Christ, if we see ourselves and if we see others as God sees us and as our Savior sees us, we will look at people with hope and possibility, with love and compassion, seeing them as the beautiful creations God created us to be, precious and beloved in His sight, beautiful and perfect and redeemed through the blood of a loving Savior. Take on the burning coals of the eyes of Christ and we become saddened by a fallen world and people who desperately need a Savior. Ah, but take on the eyes of Christ and see yourself as the chosen and beloved precious people given a second chance by the love of God. That is how Jesus sees us through the eyes of Christ and that is how we can see ourselves and others through the eyes of Christ.

God's eyes became flesh. Think about it. The incarnation is God becoming flesh that He might see His creation and us through the eyes of flesh, through mercy and love. But that we, as we take on the eyes of Christ, might see the world, and those around us, as Jesus sees us, through the eyes of mercy and love. There was something about Jesus' eyes. When He looked into your eyes He saw into Your soul. Might it surprise you that when He looks into our souls He sees only mercy and love there? Amen.

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IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!*

