



WHAT DO YOU SEE!

It was poet Robert Burns who wished for humankind the power to see ourselves as others see us. My, what insights that would bring! But there is still another perspective on human affairs that is greater still.

WHAT IF WE COULD SEE AS GOD SEES

What if we could see as God sees? I'm convinced His perspective would set us free to really live.

If we could see as God sees, we would know that most human fears never materialize.

Most of the things we spend time worrying over are never going to happen anyway. So we waste energy and weaken ourselves for the day's task. Maybe this is why Jesus said, "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."

If we could see as God sees, we would realize that no problem that does come is insurmountable.

In our gloomier moments of financial stress, illness, or family problems, we brood over questions without answers. But the promise of Scripture stands: **"God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it."**

If we could see as God sees, we would understand that no trial comes without a blessing attached.

It cannot be seen in advance. In our perplexity, we doubt that anything good can come from a heartache. But James the brother of Jesus put the divine pledge this way: **"My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full**

effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.”

If we could see as God sees, we would know that pain always signals the possibility for growth.

Although we sigh for a world free of stress, we know deep inside that such a world would produce calloused and unfeeling people. **“Endure trials for the sake of discipline,”** wrote the unnamed author of Hebrews. **“Discipline always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”**

God has given us the certain knowledge through Jesus that the meaning of all that happens here is found in realities we have never seen. To see through His eyes and to live on the basis of His promises is the meaning of a life of faith.

So, when we go to work, to our schools, to our neighborhoods, to our kid’s games and recitals, and to all the many places that God leads us, let’s realize that we are put there on purpose. We have folks we can touch and bless as God’s ambassadors. God has given us new eyes to help us see people through the eyes of Jesus. Let’s use that sight to be a blessing!

WHAT IF WE COULD SEE AS JESUS SEES

When Jesus came into Peter’s house, He saw Peter’s mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on Him.

When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to Him, and He drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: **“He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.”** (Matthew 8:14-17 TNIV)

Peter’s mother-in-law was a little invisible.

Though beautiful in appearance, you would have to look for her to find her in a crowd. She just had a way of melting into the background of things. She never drew attention to herself; there was nothing showy about her. She spoke little, and only in soft tones when she did.

But don't mistake her quiet for lack of activity! She was anything but lazy; she was the epitome of a humble servant. She could easily outwork her whole family combined — and typically did. Seemingly tireless and forever industrious.

In the time and society of Jesus of Jesus' day, women in general — not just women like Peter's mother-in-law — were expected to be hard-working and servant-minded. Just try to read **Proverbs 31** without coming away with that impression. Up before light (**vs.15**) she is at work all day and is still quite busy after sunset has come (**vs.18ff**).

In that century and culture, public contact between men and women was strictly limited, as well. Common Jewish teaching in Jesus' time was that a man must be careful not to even touch a woman's hand by accident. Why, you would think that women were supposed to be invisible.

Jesus stepped into this world of the invisible. And wherever Jesus stepped, Jesus saw the invisible, the forgotten, and the neglected. Jesus saw someone who would have been more than just a little invisible to most. He saw:

- A woman, probably past her youth.
- A woman, probably past her youth, best known to others as a mother-in-law.
- A woman, probably past her youth, best known to others as a mother-in-law and most likely a widow (since she was living with her son-in-law).
- A woman, probably past her youth, best known to others as a mother-in-law and most likely a widow (since she was living with her son-in-law), who lay very sick.
- A woman, probably past her youth, best known to others as a mother-in-law and most likely a widow (since she was living with her son-in-law), who lay very sick with an illness that had no treatment.

Invisible!

But Jesus saw the invisible and became involved with those who were. And with one whom most rabbis of His time would have avoided, Jesus took up and carried her burden:

He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up ...

Quite simply, Jesus saw one who was invisible and visibly cared for her. And this precious one who received His care made her gratitude plain for all to see:

... and she got up and began to wait on him.

God, I thank you that you see the invisible people all around us. Give me eyes too, I pray, to see as Jesus saw and hands to do as well as this woman did. Grow in my heart a spirit of compassion like my Lord and a way of gratitude like this woman of yours. Heal me in sight and service, I pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.