

Do You See Anything? Mark 8:22-26

I. What Do You See

- A. We see things through the lenses of our own experiences (I call them blinders)
 - 1. What did you see the first time you entered the auditorium?
 - 2. 5 people will say 5 different things even though nothing has changed in the auditorium
- B. Sometimes it is our own experiences that keep us from seeing Jesus clearly
- C. Some say it takes a life changing experience for people to see Jesus as He truly is, the Savior of the world
- D. We read the Bible and listen to the preacher, with our blinders on

II. Love

- A. Some want to focus on God's love (a great subject with a lot of information to go through)
- B. "The Shack"
 - 1. The focus of the movie is God's love for us
 - 2. The idea behind the movie is forgive yourself, forgive others, don't eternally judge others
 - 3. There is a scene where the main character is talking to the actor playing God and references God's wrath on sinners
 - 4. That scene left me with the idea that God has no wrath in the New Testament
- C. The word "wrath" is used 38 times in the New Testament — 28 of those times refer to God's wrath
- D. John 3:35–36 (ESV); ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. ³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.
- E. Romans 2:4–11 (ESV); ⁴ Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? ⁵ But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ He will render to each one according to his works: ⁷ to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; ⁸ but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. ⁹ There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, ¹⁰ but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. ¹¹ For God shows no partiality.
- F. 1 Thessalonians 1:9–10 (ESV); ⁹ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.
- G. Revelation uses this word 11 times referencing the wrath of God
- H. By focusing only on love, we miss God's wrath

III. Wrath

- A. Some focus on God's wrath — or judgement
- B. We become (what we think is) God's agent concerning His judgment
 - 1. We take out full page ads condemning other churches or religions
 - 2. We judge other peoples' relationships or marriages
 - 3. We take on God's role concerning salvation
- C. We forget how God feels about us

1. There are two words used for self sacrificing love; a noun and a verb
 2. Combined they are used 259 times in the New Testament
 3. Don't make this comparison to the word "wrath" — it is not an equal comparison
- D. 1 Timothy 2:3–6 (ESV); ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.
- E. John 3:16–19 (ESV); ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.
1. Jesus' mission was salvation, not condemnation
 2. Jesus' mission is our mission
 3. We must focus on salvation and not condemnation
- F. By focusing on God's wrath, we miss all the other attributes — we become blind

IV. Blind

- A. This is the only healing done in stages recorded in the Gospels
- B. Jesus' power was not limited
1. He chose to heal the blind man this way
 2. Why?
 3. Although we are not given the answer, there may be a clue in Jesus' question to him, "do you see anything?"
 4. The blind man's response is that he could not see clearly, "I see people, but they look like trees, walking."
- C. What do you see?
1. Is your vision of Jesus blurry, out of focus?
 2. Is all you see love?
 3. Is all you see wrath?
 4. Is all you see judgement?
 5. Have you allowed your experiences and preconceived ideas of who Jesus is and what He is here for to cloud your vision
- D. There is only one way to combat errors of cloudy vision — truth!
- E. John 8:31–33 (ESV); ³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"
1. The Jews were currently slaves to Rome
 2. They had been slaves in Egypt for 400 years
 3. They had been taken captive by the Assyrians (never to be released)
 4. They had been taken captive by the Babylonians (for 70 years)
 5. They were oppressed many times by the Midianites, the Philistines and many other nations
 6. It is safe to say that Israel's vision was blurry — they were blind!
- F. Jesus came in the form of man so that we could see the father clearly

G. John 14:6–9 (ESV); ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

V. Do You See Anything?

- A. Lay down your preconceived ideas of Jesus, God, and the Spirit
- B. Open your eyes — take your blinders off — to the truth of God’s word
- C. Accept God for who He says He is instead of who you think He is!