

My Eye Sees Jesus

10/27/2024

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A newlywed couple was settling into their first home, and the bride decided to prepare a special meal with ham and all the trimmings. As she was getting ready, her husband noticed that she cut off both ends of the ham before placing it in the oven. Puzzled, he asked, “Why do you cut off the ends? It looks like you’re wasting good meat.” She responded, “That’s how my mother always prepared it.”

Curious, the young man decided to ask his mother-in-law during their next visit. She explained, “That’s how my mother always cooked a ham.” Not satisfied with this, the husband made a trip to visit the grandmother, hoping to get to the bottom of it. She laughed and said, “Back in my day, the only way I could fit the ham into my pan was to cut off the ends.”

Sometimes, we adopt practices and beliefs without truly understanding their origin or purpose, simply because they’ve been handed down to us. In our own lives, do we simply follow what others have done, or do we seek to understand and make our own decisions? Do we hold onto beliefs just because they were passed down, or do we see and understand the truth for ourselves?

In today’s scripture, Job’s journey brings us to this very tension—between what we hear, what we see, and the faith that transforms our understanding. Also, Jesus invites us to move from merely hearing about God to truly seeing and experiencing God. Job’s journey shows that even in suffering, God’s presence can be revealed, guiding us to a deeper understanding. Through Jesus, we see the fullness of God’s love—a love that knows our struggles and offers hope. By fixing our eyes on Jesus, who fully experienced human suffering and continues to intercede for us, we are called to go beyond inherited traditions and seek a living, transformative relationship with the Divine.

Job is known for his endurance through unimaginable suffering. As we explored in the last sermons, he lost his family, his wealth, and his health, and he endured the harsh words of his friends, who believed his suffering was a result of some hidden sin. For much of the book, Job wrestles with his pain, seeking answers from God. He hears his friends' explanations, but they don't satisfy him. Instead, Job remains steadfast in wanting a personal encounter with God. After all the arguments, questions, and debates, God finally speaks to Job from a whirlwind.

In Job 42:1-6, we come to the climax of this journey. Even though God doesn't answer all of Job's questions directly, in response, Job says something remarkable: *"I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."* (Job 42:5-6)

Job moves from a place of hearing to seeing. What does this mean? Job had always been faithful, even when he had only heard about God. But now, after his encounter with the living God, his faith is transformed. He no longer relies on secondhand knowledge or explanations from others; he has seen God for himself. And this vision changes everything. Job's suffering didn't disappear, but he now understands that God is present even in the midst of his trials. His faith is no longer just a tradition or something passed down; it is real and personal.

The story of Job teaches us that sometimes, our most profound experiences of God come not through explanations but through encounters. Job's suffering was not explained away; rather, it was through his suffering that he encountered God in a new way. We, too, often seek answers to why we suffer. We ask, "Why me?" or "Why is this happening?" And like Job, we may not always receive the clear answers we seek. But Job's story encourages us to keep seeking, to keep asking, and to be open to encountering God in ways we don't expect.

We must move from just hearing about God to seeing and experiencing God's presence. This requires vulnerability, honesty, and sometimes the willingness to sit in the mystery of not knowing. But it is in this place of mystery that we can find God's presence, just as Job did. God may not give us all the answers, but God does give us God's presence.

While Job’s story points us toward the importance of a personal encounter with God, the reading from Hebrews 7:23-28 reveals how we can see and experience God most clearly—through Jesus Christ. The author of Hebrews describes Jesus as our “high priest,” a role that involves mediating between humanity and God. Unlike the priests of old, who had to offer sacrifices repeatedly, Jesus offered Himself as the ultimate sacrifice, once and for all.

The passage tells us: “*Consequently, he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.*” (Hebrews 7:25) Jesus is the perfect high priest because He fully understands human suffering. He didn’t just hear about our pain—He experienced it firsthand. Jesus walked on this earth, feeling the sting of betrayal, the weight of loneliness, and the agony of physical pain. On the cross, He bore the suffering of all humanity. Through His life, death, and resurrection, He made a way for us to approach God, not just as people who have heard about God, but as those who can see and know God through Him.

When we say that “my eye sees Jesus,” we are saying that we recognize and understand God through the life of Jesus. We are acknowledging that in Jesus, God has shown us what it means to love, to forgive, and to endure. Jesus didn’t come to remove all suffering, but He came to transform it, to redeem it, and to show us that even in the darkest moments, God is present.

So, how do we move from hearing about God to truly seeing God? How do we deepen our faith from mere tradition to a living, vibrant relationship? The answer lies in fixing our eyes on Jesus. In the busyness of life, it’s easy to lose focus, to be distracted by worries, by the opinions of others, or by our own expectations. But Hebrews encourages us to draw near to God, to approach God through Jesus, who understands us completely and is always there, interceding on our behalf.

We can fix our eyes on Jesus by engaging with the Gospels, by reading about His life, His teachings, and His interactions with those around Him. We can seek to see Jesus in our daily lives, in the small acts of kindness we give and receive, in the moments of grace we experience, and in the ways we care for others. When we encounter struggles, we can look to the One who has already walked through suffering and emerged victorious, knowing that Jesus walks with us.

Job's story shows us that even in our pain, God is near. Through Jesus, we see the fullness of God's love, a love that understands our struggles and offers us hope. We are invited to see God not just as an abstract idea or a distant figure, but as a compassionate presence who knows what it means to suffer and who has made a way for us to draw near.

As we reflect on Job's words—"My eye sees you"—we are reminded that faith is not about having all the answers. It is about encountering the One who holds the answers. It's about experiencing God's presence in our lives, through every joy and every sorrow.

And in Jesus, we see the clearest picture of who God is. Jesus is the one who intercedes for us, who loves us, and who has experienced the depth of human suffering for us. So, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the perfect high priest, the One who walks with us through every season of life. Let us not be content with just hearing about Him; let us see Him, know Him, and allow Him to transform our lives. Amen.