

Who is this Man 2 - The Fight to See

Last week, we looked at the importance of knowing Jesus.

- And that In order to know him intimately ...
- You have to be able see him for all that he is ...
- And for all that God is for us in him.

Here is the gospel that displays the glory of Christ.

- Here is Satan doing everything in his might to blind us.

And here we are with our fight being, The Fight to See.

- To see Jesus for all that he is and all that God is for us in him.

Now, if our fight is a fight to see. The question would be ...

- Whether there is anything that we can do from our side ...
- To increase the likelihood of seeing him for all that he is
- And for all that God is for us in him.

That is what I want to talk about today.

- Five things that will increase the likelihood of ...
- You seeing Jesus for all that he is and for all that God is for us in him.

1. Prayer

Ephesians 1:17–20 ¹⁷ I keep asking ^(aka, this is not a once of thing) that the God of our Lord

[Master/ ruler] **Jesus Christ** [Christ, not surname, but anointed king – the one we have been waiting for – the Lord of the

World!!!!] , the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation ^{(the Spirit that will}

make you wise for seeing spiritual truths) , so that ^[or in order that] you may know him better.

- In order to see Jesus for all that he is and all that God is for us in him.
- We need to pray for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation.

¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened ^[illuminated, opened]

- Why is he praying for the eyes of their heart to be Enlightened ^[illuminated, opened] verses the eyes of their mind.

Remember what Jesus said of the religious folk of his time in ...

Matthew 13 ¹³ "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand."

- They were able to see him with the eyes of their mind ...

- But they were not able to see his splendor with the eyes of their heart.

Why is Paul praying for the eyes of their heart to be enlightened?

... in order that you may know ...

(1) the hope to which he has called you

There is an enormous amount of hope for those who are in Jesus ...

- That cannot be seen with the eyes of the mind.

(2) the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,

What does that mean? Could be two things. That we receive a glorious inheritance ...

- (a) As the people of God and
- (b) In the people of God.

As the people of God ...

- All the promises of the Old Testament are "Yes" in Christ. [2 Corinthians 1:20]
- 2 Peter 1:3 "His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."
- ...

In the people of God

- We get to be a part of God's family. [Ephesians 2:19 "Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household ..."]

¹⁹ and (3) his incomparably great power for us who believe.

- There is an enormous amount of power available in God and from God
- To help us [Hebrews 4:16], transform us [2 Corinthians 3:18]
- And enable us [2 Peter 1:3] to be the people we need to be ...
- And do the work we need to do [Acts 4:20] ...
- Of bearing his image into the world.

That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms ...

The power that raised Jesus from the dead is now also available to us.

And all three of these things are made possible ...

- Or put into motion or seen through prayer.

What else will increase the likelihood of you seeing Jesus for all that he is and for all that God is for us in him?

2. Faith through Studying the Word

Hebrews 11:1 ¹ Now faith ^[pistis – strong confidence in and reliance upon something or someone] is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

We need faith to see with the “eyes of our heart” ...

- That which we cannot see with “the eyes of our mind.”

So, faith is required. Where does faith come from?

Romans 10:17 ... faith ^[in our context – the faith to see] comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. ^[The Anointed one.]

We need faith in order to see Jesus for all that he is ...

- And all that God is for us in him.

How do we get faith or increase our faith in order to see?

- Faith is “awakened” in the “receptive” heart who hears ...
- Or reads the gospel about Christ.
- Who hears or reads about the good news of all that Jesus is ...
- And all that God is for us in him.

So, reading the gospel with an Enlightened heart ...

- Will bring about faith, that will bring about sight.

What else will increase the likelihood of you seeing Jesus for all that he is and for all that God is for us in him?

3. Turning to Jesus

2 Corinthians 3:15–18

In this passage Paul is talking about the Jews in the centuries that have gone by.

- Who were not able to see, because their hearts were veiled.

And he says of them ... ¹⁵ Even to this day when Moses is read ^[Moses = the Torah = First five books of the Hebrew bible/ Old Testament], a veil covers their hearts. ^[They were not able to see back then and they are not able to see now.]

¹⁶ But ^[here comes a possible remedy, a possible way to see] whenever anyone ^[Jews, gentile, for us religious or irreligious] turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ^(When we desire to and start turn to Jesus the veil starts to lift.)

In other words when I start to turn to Jesus ...

- By seeking him and dealing with Sin in my life.
- The veil will start to lift.

It is going to be pretty hard to see him for all that he is ...

- While not dealing with the sin in my heart.
- Sin hardens, it does not soften ...

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ^[Where the Spirit of the Lord is, is the freedom to see?]

In context of what we are talking about ...

- Where the Spirit of the Lord is ...
- There is the freedom to see.

Turning to Jesus leads to seeing Jesus for all that he is ...

- And all that God is for us in him.

What else will increase the likelihood of you seeing Jesus for all that he is and for all that God is for us in him?

4. By Surrounding yourself with those that can see.

¹ John 1:1–4 ¹ That which was from the beginning ^[John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God"], which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at ^[gazed upon] and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

There is "something" that has been from the beginning ^[as in the beginning of time.]

- That they have heard.
- That they have seen with their eyes.
- That they have looked at or gazed at.
- That their hands have touched.
- And that they now proclaim ^[that they want these guys to know about.]

What is that something?

That something is – he says at the end of v.1 – the WORD of Life.

² The life ^[The Word of Life] appeared ^[John 1:14 "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."]; we have seen it ^[we have seen the word of Life] and testify to it ...

The word he uses there for testify is a legal term used in a court of law ...

- For testifying as to what you have seen and heard.

The life appeared, we have seen it and testify to it and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father ^[in the beginning and from the beginning] and has appeared to us.

We proclaim to you, report to you, we are telling you about ...

- THE ETERNAL LIFE which was with the Father ^[in the beginning and from the beginning]
- And has appeared to us.

Now, do you remember what we said about eternal life last week.

- Most of the Jews of Jesus time believed that ...
- The world was divided into two ages.

There was the PRESENT AGE ...

- That was full of misery and suffering, injustice and oppression.

And there was what they believed to be ...

- THE AGE TO COME / God's New Age ... ^[mostly translated as Eternal Life]

The Age to Come was the time when God would ...

- Put everything right ...
- Rescues his people from the evil that they have suffered.
- And bring about his new world.

What is John saying?

- Previously God has kept 'The Age to Come' ^[His New World] under wraps.
- But he has now provided us with an advanced display of the future.
- The Coming Age has burst into the present in and through Jesus.

³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard ...

We have seen the future guys ...

- And we have been captured by its beauty and its promise.
- It is a future full of light and life and joy and hope.
- And we are proclaiming that future to you.

Why? ... so that you also may have fellowship with us.

Well, why would you want to have fellowship with us?

Because ... our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. [The Anointed one – The Messiah]

For our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. [The Anointed one – The Messiah]

The father and son have an out of this world relationship ...

- That will take your breath away.
- And this breath-taking relationship ...
- This fellowship, between the Father and Son has now been extended ...
- To all those who are able to see Jesus for all that he is ...
- And who joyfully and eagerly submit their lives to his rule and reign.

⁴ We write this [that which we have seen, heard & touched and gazed upon] to make our (your) joy complete.

Sharing in many ways completes the joy of the sharer.

- While at the same time drawing those around them into that joy ...
- And affection.
- Dude buying my motorcycle

That is sort of the experience that I am getting ...

- From reading that which John is writing.

What do you think it would be like to sit down with someone like that today?

Surrounding yourself with people who can see Jesus – for all that he is ...

- And for all that God for us in him –
- Will enable you to see what they see.
- And will bring both you and them great joy!

So, what is it that we want to see?

1. We want to see all that he is and all that God is for us in him.
2. We want to see what role he plays in the universe...?
3. What he valued ...? What made his heart beat?
4. What he is like as a person...?
5. What he expects of you as his follower ...?

