

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

A Whole New You Series, Lesson 23

Lesson Title: New Eyes

Take Home Point: We can have eyes to see the way God sees.

Warm-Up:

I enjoy looking at images taken from ground and space based telescopes. I think all of us have become accustomed to seeing the latest spectacular image published that sheds new light on some aspect of God's amazing creation. Imagine what it must have been like when Galileo first turned his rudimentary small telescope heavenward to look at the moon, planets, and stars. He saw things no one had ever seen before. And because of what he saw, he provided evidence to disprove the common conception of the universe revolving around the earth. He saw with "new eyes", and it completely changed the way he perceived the natural world. Today, with the ability to image in many parts of the spectrum other than visible light, we see the world in ways we otherwise couldn't even imagine, and it changes our understanding of the world around us.

Read: Luke 11:34-36, Matthew 25:31-46, 2 Kings 6:8-23

Observation (What happened?):

When the Lord opened the eyes of Elijah's servant, what did the man see?

From Matthew 25, what does the Lord want us to see as we live in this world?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Jesus said the eye is the lamp of the body?

What did he mean when he said, "See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness."?

Insight:

In addition to the account of Elisha's servant, the Bible provides us with other examples of how different the world looks through Spirit-guided eyes. Consider the response of Jesus to the gift of the poor woman in Mark 12:41-43. While others saw two tiny coins, he recognized a great sacrifice. In Matthew 15, his disciples counted only a few fish and bread loaves, but Jesus saw the means to feed needy people and teach his disciples about faith. The most striking example of all was the crucifixion of Jesus. His disciples despaired because all they could see was the loss of everything they had thought he would do. Jesus saw his death and resurrection as his Father's will to destroy the wages of sin and free those who believe from eternal death. And when the gift of the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, God gave the way for us to see the world through his eyes – eyes of compassion and discernment, attuned to the spiritual world around us to see God's gracious intervention in the lives of people who desperately need him.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What do you see when you look at people? How can you train your eyes (and your mind) to see them as God sees them?

Pray for the children in your small group to see God's protection.