

## The Eyes of Christ

December 22, 2021

Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-7

1 Nevertheless the dimness *shall not be* such as *was* in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict *her by* the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations.

2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

3 Thou hast multiplied the nation, *and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.*

4 For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

5 For every battle of the warrior *is* with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but *this* shall be with burning *and* fuel of fire.

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

**Summary: In all seasons of the year, we need vision correction.**

**We are too often farsighted, or shortsighted, or just plain blind to the reality of God's kingdom.**

**The prophet Isaiah was talking about this blindness when he had a vision of a future when those spiritual eyes would be opened.**

**(Isaiah 9:2)**

**“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light and those who dwell in a land of deep darkness – on them has light shined”. The sort of darkness that is sometimes found in the lives of human beings needs more than a mechanical or electronic correction. It requires more than artificial eyes. It requires the eyes of Jesus.**

**It is about light winning over darkness. It is about new ways of seeing reality. It is about a new history. It is about new eyes of faith.**

**We need to dedicate ourselves to living like Jesus, and that we will do our best to see things the ways Jesus sees.**

**So the natural question is, “How does Jesus see? What does it mean to see with Jesus eyes?”**

**Well, there are clues – four of them in fact – in the lesson from Isaiah today. The clues are found in the four names which Isaiah gives to the child who is sent to occupy the throne of David: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.**

**First, having Jesus as our Wonderful Counselor means that we don't have to try to figure things out all by ourselves, but have his wisdom and insight on which to draw.**

**Even more than that, however, is the ability of Jesus to see things as they really are, and to offer us a way through the darkness.**

**Jesus, the Wonderful Counselor can give us new perspectives on life, living, and ministry because he sees things from the perspective of eternity.**

Seeing through the eyes of Jesus, we preview the Wonderful Counselor who teaches us the new ways of the kingdom.

**John 14:6**

6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Seeing with the eyes of Jesus helps us perceive the power of a Mighty God.

This is the Mighty God who breathed the creation into being, who put men and women on the earth to steward that creation, who provided us a history, who drew us together in community.

**Genesis 1:26-28**

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

This is the Mighty God who came to earth in the form of an infant. Sure, a baby doesn't look too powerful or too mighty or too capable. But this baby was different. This baby would grow and would challenge the systems of hatred and idolatry, sin and death.

In deference to our President, Jesus is more than a favorite philosopher. He is the Mighty God who holds the fate of whole nations and races in the palm of his hand.

Seeing with the eyes of Jesus helps us take note that the Devil hasn't a chance against this Mighty God.

**Martin Luther wrote these words in his hymn, “A Mighty Fortress is Our God.”**

**And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us, we will not fear for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.**

**1 John 4:4**

**4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.**

**The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure, for lo his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him, the Devil will not win.**

**Seeing with the eyes of Jesus means that we can see a Mighty God who is there with us when we are doing battle with all sorts of troubles such as: temptations, obstacles, setbacks, rejection, disappointments, or crushing loss.**

**Looking at reality through the eyes of Jesus enables us to have a clear vision of our Everlasting Father.**

**Our Everlasting Father, a God who is much more than any earthly father.**

**Let me introduce you to an Everlasting Father who will not abuse, who will not deny, who will not neglect, who will not run and hide, who will be there through thick and thin.**

**Let me tell you about an Everlasting Father who cares for such insignificant creatures as sparrows, and such insignificant plants as lilies. Having Jesus eyes enables us to see our Everlasting Father who is willing to give everything for our safety, security, and salvation.**

**Finally, seeing with the eyes of Jesus enables us to see the Prince of Peace. Goodness knows we have to have a new vision of peace. There is a lack of peace in our families, in our communities, in our churches, and in our nation.**

**Seeing with the eyes of Jesus helps us to find new ways to mediate conflict, new ways to listen to each other without fighting, new ways to get along in community.**

**Seeing with the eyes of Jesus helps us envision national policy that which seeks justice and righteousness for the poor, for the downtrodden, for the outcast.**

**It helps us envision the reality of spears which are beaten into cutting shears and swords which are turned into plowshares and nuclear funds which are forsaken that others might have bread to eat.**

**I believe that in this season of Advent – in all the seasons of the year – we need vision correction.**

**We are too often farsighted, or shortsighted, or just plain blind to the reality of God's kingdom.**

**As we make our way to Christmas, may we seek new vision through the eyes of Jesus.**