

SEEING OTHERS AS GOD SEES THEM

Seeing Through God's Eyes -- Part 2

April 15, 2018

1 John 4:8 (NLT) *"But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love."*

Luke 13:10-13 (NIV) *"On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, ¹¹ and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. ¹² When Jesus saw her, He called her forward and said to her, 'Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.' ¹³ Then He put His hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God."*

FIVE CHALLENGES FOR SEEING OTHERS

1. LOOK around.

Matthew 9:36 (MSG) *"When He looked out over the crowds, His heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd."*

Attention is one of the most powerful forces in the world.

Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV) *"The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace."*

A Couple Observations About Our World:

- All kinds of people are waiting to be noticed.
- You have to slow down to see people.

2. Take a RISK.

C. S. Lewis: "To love at all is to be vulnerable."

Matthew 5:46-47 (NCV) *"If you love only the people who love you, you will get no reward. Even the tax collectors do that. ⁴⁷ And if you are nice only to your friends, you are no better than other people. Even those who don't know God are nice to their friends."*

2 Corinthians 5:14 (NIV) *"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died."*

3. REACH out.

In this life you will never meet another person that is not created in the image of God.

Ephesians 4:32 (NLT) *“Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”*

How Jesus showed kindness...

- He SAW her.
- He SPOKE to her.

Proverbs 18:21 (NCV) *“What you say can mean life or death. Those who speak with care will be rewarded.”*

- He TOUCHED her.

Luke 5:12-13 (NIV) *“While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged Him, ‘Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.’¹³ Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man. ‘I am willing,’ He said. ‘Be clean!’ And immediately the leprosy left him.”*

4. Expect some CRITICISM.

Luke 13:14 (NIV) *“Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, ‘There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.’ ”*

Luke 13:15-16 (NIV) *“The Lord answered him, ‘You hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water?’¹⁶ Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?’ ”*

Luke 7:34 (NCV) *“The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at Him! He eats too much and drinks too much wine, and He is a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ ”*

Choose to be a dispenser of God’s love.

5. Seize the MOMENT.

1 John 3:18 (MSG) *“My dear children, let’s not just talk about love; let’s practice real love.”*