

Life to the Full (Week 2)

Fullest Perspective
God's view

Day 1

John 1:43-50,
John 4:1-30, 39-41

In Chapter 16 of the Old Testament book of Genesis, we find the story of a slave woman named Hagar. She was treated very poorly by her mistress and decided to run away. God then sends an angel to meet her in the desert. The angel sends her back home, but not without giving her a promise for the child she was carrying. Then Hagar does something very interesting, which is explained in verse 13: “ **13** *She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: “You are the God who sees me,” for she said, “I have now seen the One who sees me.”*”

The “God who sees me” is a beautiful title, isn't it? Just like the woman at the well in the passage you read today from John, we find that there is comfort in knowing that God sees us. We don't have to feel overlooked, forgotten, or disregarded. God sees us. What is greater still, He still loves us! Consider the woman's words: “Come see the one who told me everything I ever did.” Given her track record, that doesn't seem like it would be comforting. Let's be honest, given my track record and yours, having someone know everything we've ever done doesn't seem like it would be a good thing, yet it is. It is because the God who sees us is also the God who loves us, the God who saved us, and the God who wants us to know Him personally.

That is quite a beautiful miracle.

Day 2 (Reading Only) 1 Samuel 16:7 & 1 Peter 3:4

Day 3

Read Isaiah 46

Do you remember learning as a child that people used to think the world was flat? You really can't blame them. All they had to go on was what they could see. Apparently, there are still flat earthers. This is a little more confusing as we now have many forms of proof, like satellite imagery. Despite evidence of God, Judah, too, chose to trust in neighboring gods, rather than the truth of their God.

Isaiah was a poetic prophet who lived among the Kings. He spoke the words of God eloquently during a pivotal point in Judah's history. In a day where there were threats from abroad and corruption within, Isaiah never avoided the truth. In the passage you are reading today, Isaiah compares the man-made gods of the neighboring lands to the God of Israel. The contrast is sharp. God has carried Judah, yet they are tempted to trust in gods that need to be carried around by the people who make them! God wants us to trust Him. He is the only one worth trusting in.

God speaks about Himself through the prophet Isaiah in words that should be an anchor to our souls.

I am God, and there is none like me.

10

I make known the end from the beginning,
from ancient times, what is still to come.
I say, 'My purpose will stand,
and I will do all that I please.'

11

From the east I summon a bird of prey;
from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose.
What I have said, that I will bring about;
what I have planned, that I will do.

God sees the end from the beginning. He is never surprised or caught off guard. How can that help you and me? We can rest knowing He is in control. What's on the horizon may look like the end of the world to you and me, but God sees past it, to new days and new life.

Day 4 (Reading Only) I Corinthians 1:25

Day 5

Psalm 33

1

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous;
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

2

Praise the Lord with the harp;
make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.

3

Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully, and shout for joy.

4

For the word of the Lord is right and true;
he is faithful in all he does.

5

The Lord loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of his unfailing love.

6

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

7

He gathers the waters of the sea into jars[a];
he puts the deep into storehouses.

8

Let all the earth fear the Lord;
let all the people of the world revere him.

9

For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

10

The Lord foils the plans of the nations;
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.

11

But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever,
the purposes of his heart through all generations.

12

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people he chose for his inheritance.

13

From heaven the Lord looks down
and sees all mankind;

14

from his dwelling place he watches
all who live on earth—

15

he who forms the hearts of all,

who considers everything they do.

16

No king is saved by the size of his army;
no warrior escapes by his great strength.

17

A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;
despite all its great strength it cannot save.

18

But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him,
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,

19

to deliver them from death
and keep them alive in famine.

20

We wait in hope for the Lord;
he is our help and our shield.

21

In him our hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his holy name.

22

May your unfailing love be with us, Lord,
even as we put our hope in you.

Psalm 33: 18-19

18

But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him,
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,

19

to deliver them from death
and keep them alive in famine.

I cannot stand commercials. I am not one to eagerly watch commercials during the Superbowl because I just find them...meh. BUT, there was one commercial that I cannot forget, and I think of it often. Here is the scene: there is a shot down the aisle of a wedding, and at the end of the aisle is a radiant bride and her adoring father on her arm. Everyone is looking at the bride with their back to the camera, because your perspective is from the eyes of the groom. The bride is jewel-eyed and smiling with her eyes fixed on you when an awesome voice breaks the tension and says, "When everyone is looking at her, she will be looking only at you." The implication is that you better look your best because the one who matters has her gaze fixed on you!

I think of that scene when we say "The eyes of The Lord are on those who fear him." The groom is not hurt that no one looks at him, he is delighted that the bride's gaze was on him, and that is his joy. Like the groom, we are called out of the spotlight and are to let everything we do point to Jesus. I love the idea of everyone seeing Jesus and having their eyes fixed on Him, while we also know that His gaze is ever fixed on us.

Imagine how we would live and the way our fears and anxieties would melt away if we would stop and consider these two verses from Psalm 33. GOD, the creator and sustainer of the universe, the one hope of the world, has His eyes on you. You are not something He has on a checklist to make sure you have not messed up again. No, you are fixed in His gaze, and He is your deliverance from anything that seeks to rob you of your identity, purpose, and provision in your calling.

GROUPS Questions:

1. Which concept is more difficult for you to grasp, or believe; The fact that God sees the whole world from beginning to end, or that God's eyes are specifically on you?
2. How would you describe the perspective you typically view life from?
3. If you believe God is wiser than you and sees the end from the beginning, how does that affect you right now?