



Seeing Jesus

Luke 2:8-10 (NIV)

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "**Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.**"

John 12:20-21 (NIV)

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus."

I. The Eyes of a Prophet

Luke 2:26-29

The Holy Spirit had shown him that he would see the Messiah of God before he died. Led by the Spirit, he entered the Temple. As the parents of the child Jesus brought him in to carry out the rituals of the Law, Simeon took him into his arms and blessed God: "God, you can now release your servant; release me in peace as you promised."

A. Desire

B. Expectation & Effort

C. Willing to be Different

Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)

¹³ "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

1. For Example: Afraid of What?

Luke 12:4-7 (NIV)

⁴ "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. ⁵ **But I will show you whom you should fear:** Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. ⁶ Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. ⁷ Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

Luke 12:31-34 (NIV)

³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. ³² "**Do not be afraid, little flock,** for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Isaiah 8:11-13 (NIV)

¹¹ The LORD spoke to me with his strong hand upon me, warning me not to follow the way of this people. He said: ¹² "Do not call conspiracy everything that these people call conspiracy; **do not fear what they fear,** and do not dread it. ¹³ The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread,

1 Peter 3:12-15 (NIV)

¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." ¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "**Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened.**" ¹⁵ But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.

II. The Key to Jesus' Second Visit -His First Visit

A. Looking and Not Seeing

John 1:31

I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

Luke 7:20-23 (MSG)

The men showed up before Jesus and said, "John the Baptizer sent us to ask you, 'Are you the One we've been expecting, or are we still waiting?'" In the next two or three hours Jesus healed many from diseases, distress, and evil spirits. To many of the blind he gave the gift of sight. Then he gave his answer: "Go back and tell John what you have just seen and heard: The blind see, The lame walk, Lepers are cleansed, The deaf hear, The dead are raised, The wretched of the earth have God's salvation hospitality extended to them. Is this what you were expecting? Then count yourselves fortunate!"

Luke 19:44

They'll smash you and your babies on the pavement. Not one stone will be left intact. All this because you didn't recognize and welcome God's personal visit."

2. It is Hard to See When . . .

- a. The Risk is Great
- b. Sacrifice is Necessary
- c. Desires Must be Yielded

B. The Purpose

Luke 19:10 (MSG)

For the Son of Man came to find and restore the lost."

John 10:10 (MSG)

I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.

C. The Method

Hebrews 9:28 (NIV)

Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Col. 2:13-14 (NIV)

When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, [14] the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's Cross.

Jeremiah 2:13 (NIV)

"My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

Prayer

Heavenly Father open my eyes to see. Grant me an understanding heart. Holy Spirit direct me in paths of righteousness. May the strength and courage to follow Jesus grow within me each day. Deliver me from my enemies. Almighty God you are my rock and my redeemer, in you I place my trust. Amen.

