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Enlightening The Eyes of Our Hearts

LUKE 18:31-34

Introduction

1. Our eyesight is precious to us. Often we don't realize how much we depend upon it until it is compromised.
2. Imagine describing a scene to someone who has never known sight.
 - a. They have never seen colors or shapes.
 - b. Dimensions and angles would take time.
3. Imagine also what it would be like for that person to suddenly be able to see for the first time.
4. From a spiritual standpoint there are many around us today who are blind.

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5. Their blindness is the result of Satan's deceptions (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” (2 Corinthians 4:3-4, NASB95)

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6. It is God who gives us the ability to see His truth:

“For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 4:6, NASB95)

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,” (Ephesians 1:18, NASB95)

7. This morning, we find Jesus' disciples lacking in understanding, unable to comprehend what Jesus was saying to them.
8. Let's look at what Jesus tells them and what it is that He wants us to see in His message to these men.

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I. Who Is The Son of Man?

A. THE NAME JESUS APPLIED TO HIMSELF

“Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished.” (Luke 18:31, NASB95)

1. “Son of Man” is not a name which others gave to Jesus.
2. It is a name which He gave to Himself.
3. Eighty-three times, the gospel writers record His use of this title.
4. Luke includes it 26 times in his gospel.
5. Did Jesus just make the name up, or does it have a history behind it?

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B. A NAME RICH IN HISTORY

1. On the one hand, we find it utilized to identify the prophet Ezekiel 93 times in the book which bears his name.
2. It sets him apart from the “Lord God” as one who is a “mere human,” a descendent of mankind.
3. This is its meaning the other fourteen times we find it in the Old Testament which includes the two times we find it in the book of Daniel (Daniel 7:13; 8:17).
4. One of those times, however, Daniel records a vision he had of what lay ahead on the stage of world history.
5. It was graphically represented by a series of four beasts, finally culminating with thrones of judgment being set up, and “the Ancient of Days,” God Himself, presiding over that judgment.

5a**6. Daniel's vision ends with these words:**

"I kept looking in the night visions,
And behold, with the clouds of heaven
One like a Son of Man was coming,
And He came up to the Ancient of Days
And was presented before Him.
And to Him was given dominion,
Glory and a kingdom,
That all the peoples, nations and men of every language
Might serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
Which will not pass away;
And His kingdom is one
Which will not be destroyed."

(Daniel 7:13–14, NASB95)

7. To another divine being, one "like a Son of Man", God gave glory, sovereignty, worship and an everlasting dominion.
8. When Jesus came to this earth, He came as one who was fully human and yet fully divine.
9. He used this title "Son of Man," not to say I am like Ezekiel or Daniel, but I am the One of whom Daniel wrote, "I am the eternal, sovereign King!"
10. The first time He used the term "Son of Man" for Himself was at the healing of the paralytic in Capernaum (Mark 2:10-11).

"But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet and go home." (Mark 2:10–11, NASB95)

Slide 6**II. What Was To Happen To This Son Of Man?**

A. EVERYTHING WRITTEN THROUGH THE PROPHETS

1. David (Psalm 22)

a. He would be forsaken by God (v. 1).

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Psalm 22:1).

b. His detractors would sneer at Him (v. 7-8).

“All who see me sneer at me;
They separate with the lip, they wag the head, saying,
“Commit yourself to the Lord; let Him deliver him;
Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him.”
(Psalm 22:7-8).

c. He would be crucified (Psalm 22:16c).

“They pierced my hands and my feet.” (Psalm 22:16, NASB95)

d. They would gamble for His clothing (Psalm 22:18).

“They divide my garments among them,
And for my clothing they cast lots.”
(Psalm 22:18, NASB95)

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2. Isaiah (Isaiah 53)

a. He would be beaten (Isaiah 53:5)

“But He was pierced through for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him,
And by His scourging we are healed.”
(Isaiah 53:5, NASB95)

b. Though challenged time and again, He would not respond (Isaiah 53:7).

“He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He did not open His mouth;
Like a lamb that is led to slaughter,
And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers,
So He did not open His mouth.”

(Isaiah 53:7, NASB95)

- c. Though innocent of all charges, He would be crucified between two thieves and buried in a rich man’s tomb (Isaiah 53:9).

“His grave was assigned with wicked men,
Yet He was with a rich man in His death,
Because He had done no violence,
Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.”

(Isaiah 53:9, NASB95)

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B. WHAT DID JESUS SAY WOULD HAPPEN TO HIMSELF?

“For He will be handed over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon, and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again.”” (**Luke 18:32–33, NASB95**)

1. “He will be handed over to the Gentiles” (cf. Luke 23:1)
2. He “will be mocked . . . mistreated . . . spit upon and scourged” (cf. Luke 22:63-64; 23:11,35-36; John 19:1)
3. They “will kill Him” (cf. Luke 23:46)
4. On “the third day He will rise again” (cf. Luke 24:1-12; Matthew 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-8; John 20:1-8)

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5. This isn’t the first time Jesus has told His disciples these things:
 - a. The first time was in Caesarea Philippi, after Peter declared Him to be the Christ (Luke 9:22):

“The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day.” (Luke 9:22, NASB95)

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- b. The second was after His transfiguration on the mountain (Luke 9:44):

“Let these words sink into your ears; for the Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men.” (Luke 9:44, NASB95)

9b

- c. The third was following His response to the Pharisees’ question as to when the kingdom of God was coming (Luke 17:25):

“But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.” (Luke 17:25, NASB95)

Slide 10**C. ALL OF THIS WAS NECESSARY. WHY?**

1. It was only through His death on the cross that He could become our atoning sacrifice.

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,” (1 Corinthians 15:3, NASB95)

“and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.” (1 Peter 2:24, NASB95)

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2. Apart from the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

“Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.” (Hebrews 9:22, ESV)

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3. Without His resurrection, we have no hope of eternal life.

“But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:13–14, ESV)

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,” (1 Peter 1:3, NASB95)

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III. Understanding God’s Plan

A. THE DISCIPLES DID NOT GET IT!

1. Three times in this last verse, Luke tells us that the disciples simply did not get it:
 - a. “The disciples understood none of these things” (34a).
 - b. “The meaning of this statement was hidden from them” (v. 34b).
 - c. “They did not comprehend the things that were said” (v. 34c).
2. These men had been with Jesus nearly three years, night and day, and yet they did not understand what was about to occur. Why?
3. They simply did not see how the Messiah who had healed the sick and raised the dead, who had calmed powerful storms and fed thousands would allow Himself to suffer and die.
4. Even on the evening following His resurrection, as His disciples were hidden away in Jerusalem behind locked doors, Jesus appeared to them and said, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled” (Luke 24:44).
5. They still did not understand, until, “He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures” (Luke 24:45).

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B. DO WE?

1. Jesus' approaching suffering and death in Jerusalem was no surprise.
2. The Scriptures promised it and Jesus foretold it.
3. The things He suffered, He suffered willingly, knowing what His death, burial and resurrection would ultimately accomplish for us.
4. Do we understand there was no other way for us to be saved and to enjoy the eternal reward He came to provide?

Conclusion

1. We have often heard it said that "Seeing is believing".
2. However, we have just read of those who not only saw, but heard and still struggled to believe.
3. As Jesus had pointed out to His disciples, not only had the prophets of old told of the things which would happen to Jesus, but He had confirmed it as well.
4. Perhaps we look back at them and say, "How could you not understand and believe?"
5. The question for each of us here today is "Do we read what the Holy Spirit has preserved for us and still not believe it or accept it?"
6. It is vital that each of us trust and obey God's Word, because without these two responses, we have no hope of the eternal life He has promised.
7. Are you willing to come to Jesus this morning so that He may save you?