

Apply

Right now (Come and see):

Everywhere Jesus went, even in places that others despised, Jesus expected to see his Father at work. Jesus said that because his Father loves him, he delights to show him how he is working in the world. We believe that as followers of Jesus, God the Father delights to show us what he's doing in the world, too. On our campus, we don't have to limit our perspective to the physical things we can see with our eyes. Like Jesus, we can see the campus through God's eyes. Let's pray right now and ask God, our loving Father, to show us how he sees our campus, where he's powerfully at work, and how he's inviting us to join in.

This week (Go and do):

This kind of spiritual vision doesn't have to be a one-time activity. With practice, we can embrace Jesus' posture of expectancy as we explore for God at work around us in the everyday places of our lives. **This week, try to live one day with this posture of expectancy:**

- When you wake up, commit your day to Jesus and ask God to help you see how he's moving in the people and places around you.
- As you go to different places (walking across campus, driving around town, sitting down to a meal) pay attention to what you see. Ask your Father what he wants you to notice. Ask God to help you "lift your eyes" to see how he is working in that place.
- As you interact with people (classmates, professors, strangers on the bus) try to keep in perspective that everyone you see is made in the image of God and dearly loved by their creator. C.S. Lewis famously said that "there are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal." Ask God to show you how he's moving in peoples' lives.
- Throughout your day as you explore for God at work around you, don't just be a spectator. Pay attention to how God could be inviting you to join in. Are there people that God is inviting you to talk to or pray for? Is God highlighting needs that you and your community could play a part in meeting? Take a risk and see what God does!
- Next time you meet, make sure to share how it went!

SEEING AS GOD SEES

Week 5



Intro

In the stories we've looked at so far, Jesus' followers have seen him do some amazing things. He spoke to people with prophetic insight, he turned water into wine, and he miraculously fed thousands. This week, we'll see Jesus pull back the curtain a bit and reveal how he was able to perform these incredible signs.

After Jesus healed a paralyzed man on the Sabbath day (something religious leaders had a major issue with), Jesus defended his actions with the following words:

John 5:17-20 (ESV)

¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." ¹⁸ This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. ¹⁹ So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing.** For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.

Here, Jesus reveals an incredible insight that was at the center of his approach to ministry. Every single thing that Jesus did - every healing, every miracle, every life-giving conversation - was an act of looking and seeing his Father at work in the world around him and then joining in that work.

Let's look back at the last two stories we've discussed and try to see how this actually played out. Read the following excerpts from John 4 and John 6 and ask the question, "What did Jesus see his Father doing?"

Jesus sees his Father at work in Samaria - John 4:27-35

²⁷ Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" ²⁸ So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" ³⁰ They went out of the town and were coming to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." ³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, **lift up your eyes**, and see that the fields are white for harvest."

Discuss

1. When Jesus looked at this town in Samaria, what did he see his Father doing? And when he interacted with the woman at the well, how do you think he saw his Father at work in her life?
2. What do you think Jesus' followers saw when they looked at this town or this woman?

Jesus sees his Father at work in the hungry crowds - John 6:5-7

⁵ **Lifting up his eyes**, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little."

Discuss

1. When Jesus looked at this crowd what do you think he saw his Father doing?
2. What do you think Philip and the other disciples saw when they looked at the crowd?
3. How would you explain the difference? Why was Jesus able to see his Father working while his followers could not?