

M8 – “Eyes Open”

We live in a world overflowing with ideas and opinions. In Jesus' day the big question was - "Who is this guy?... really?" And how they and us today answer this question changes and challenges every other idea we have about this life. A life walked on a thin line. Will we do it blind or with eyes wide open?

4 stories – wrestling with who Jesus is. **1 Challenge** – to live life with eyes wide open with Him!

I. Seeing is Believing? V1-13

Is seeing believing? Really? Does 'proof' = belief?

Read v1-10 Jesus has 'compassion' > Mass feeding > broke/blessed/multiplied > 'all satisfied' Mt15:37

V11-13 Pharisees (legalistic religious critics) question Jesus > “Who are you? Why are you here?”

Mt 16:1-4 Jesus' rebuke: Understand weather, but not 'signs of the times.' > Jonah Sign (Lk 11:29-32)

Think: Jesus just finished feeding 4000+ people miraculously... isn't this enough “sign”? Yet, they ask for more, again... Jesus “sighed deeply” v12.

Seeing is NOT believing > Eyes will never reveal what the Heart is unwilling to accept.

Ex: Loving Mother > Rebellious Son; Wronged; Scorned;

Ex: “IF You exist God....” , God reveals and we still question & demand if our HEART is not open.

1Cor 1:22-25 Jews > Signs, Greeks > Logic , US? Christ Crucified! (Sign of Jonah)

Demanding Signs > It's arrogance of heart to demand that God must 'prove' Himself to us. Does the Creator of all have to answer to a ball of dust?

Rom 1:18-25 > God reveal himself clearly via what He has made. We “**suppress truth** by our wickedness”(18) even though God has made the truth plain. We are “men **without excuse**”(20). Why? We didn't want to “**glorify God**” or “thank Him” because our hearts are “darkened” and we have slipped from wisdom to foolishness. We have ‘**exchanged the truth of God for a lie**’ to serve “things rather than the Creator.” ... it is the sad picture of our hearts to a God who uses every fiber of life to declare Himself to us. And we still demand a 'sign'

Ex: Help in a flood

II. Infectious Blindness v14-21

V14-15 “Be careful” (=on guard) > “Yeast (spreading sin) of Pharisees (Ultra-religious) & Herod (ultra-liberal, Mk 6:14-20) > demanding signs without faith.

Notice the arrogance to demand of God comes from all spectrums.

We are told to “Be careful” > we too can be caught up in this lie.

Q: Do we ever demand signs from God? Make deals?

Lk 16:12 > Yeast = teachings/beliefs > spread of disbelief

V16 Disciples so stuck on earthly mindset that they think Jesus is speaking of bread!

V17-21 Jesus rebukes Disciples for lack of faith to understand what they experience.

US? Jesus can reveal Himself to you, but we can’t understand it if our hearts are hard.

Jn 1:15 *“A Light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.”*

Q: How do I ‘turn on’ faith? ‘turn off’ a hard heart?

> “Help my unbelief!” simply ask!

God doesn’t prove himself, He REVEALS Himself! Via Jesus!

III. Opening Eyes v22-26

- Faith is moving from blindness to sight.

- It’s a process of getting progressively clearer as Jesus works in our lives!

IV. Peter’s Eyes open v27-33

Jesus > “Who do people say I am?... You?”

Today? – Liar, Lunatic, fraud, Martyr, Philosopher, Guru, Teacher, Prophet...God?

Peter – “You are the Christ”!!! > “not revealed to you by man...” Mt 16:17

We understand who Jesus is by REVELATION from God. It’s not clever reasoning, miracles, but God given understanding and softness of heart by GRACE!

Mt 16:18 > Jesus will build His BRIDE, BODY, CHURCH on the shoulders of those who see Him as He is!

V31-33 Jesus reveals His mission – come, die, live again & rise us in Him! > Peter rebukes Jesus

Jesus rebukes Peter – *“you don’t have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”*

V. Challenge v34-9:1

Jesus' invitation into His life is simple – “Come, follow Me.”

1. If we want to “come” we must “die” to our self
2. Let go of the illusion that you are master of “your life”... real life is found when you let go!

V36-38 Our chasing after this world is in vain. Hold to what last forever! **Get caught up in HIS LIFE!**

3. Jesus stands with His own. Confess – speak/live for Him, as He has done for you!