

Eyes

By Mark E. Benjamin

Trips to the E.R.

During the past summer, my family had the stress of two visits to the emergency room. Both were within two months of each other, and both were because of eye injuries

The first was when one of my daughters was hit by a homemade bow and arrow. The result of which caused her pupil to become two-thirds full of blood and fluid. Her vision also completely went in that eye. My wife rushed her to the emergency room while I stayed at home conducting an investigation of the incident. I interrogated the perpetrator and two eyewitnesses (no pun intended), and concluded that it was truly an accident. There was no foul play or intent, only lack of wisdom and a once in a million ricochet by the blunt arrow.

After dropping off the other kids at my mother's, I joined my wife a couple hours later at the hospital. Prayer is a powerful thing. By the time I arrived, my little girl's pupil was showing only a slight sign of the injury and her vision was back, although still blurry. Within just days, her eye completely healed and restored to full normal sight. Praise God!

The second instance was my youngest son. He found himself on the receiving end of a foot to his right eye. The deliverer was a young teenage girl coming down a slide into the pool where my son was wading. Besides a small amount of pain, he had no visible sign that the collision occurred. Even after a full day, he only had the slightest of swelling and even a smaller amount of discoloration. When he woke up on the second day, there was no improvement but also no indication of it getting worse than what it already was. That was until only an hour later.

My son came to me in a panic. His eye was now completely swollen shut and greater than twice its normal size. He went for his shoes and I went for my keys. A CAT scan, one antibiotic shot and over six hours later; we were on our way back home again. The diagnosis; a fractured eye socket. Because of this, it caused the eye to become disfigured.

It took almost a week before his eye looked normal again. But the effects of the fracture lasted much longer. He needed to be careful not to injure the eye any further or do anything to irritate it. For that could have caused it to become worse than what it had been originally.

My children were fortunate to heal completely and retain their full sight. I can't imagine how changed their lives might have been if they lost the use of one of their eyes. However, far more restrictive than the loss of physical sight, is the impairment of spiritual sight. **Proverbs 29:18 (KJV) Where there is no vision, the people perish...** Could my daughter and son still have functioned without the use of one of their eyes? Of course they could have. It might not have been as good as having two eyes, but they would have been alright. But without the use of vision – spiritual vision – people perish.

Clouded Vision

In **Exodus 34:29-35** we see the scene of Mount Sinai and Moses coming down with the two tablets in his hands. His face was radiant from just being in the presence of the LORD. The Holiness of God is so great that it stayed upon Moses even after he took the walk down the mountain side. The Hebrews were frightened by this and so to calm them, Moses would place a veil over his face. This would dim the radiance of the LORD upon his face.

How often do we purposely do the same thing? The Holiness of God is far too great for us to look at directly so we cover it with veils. The veils of being too busy or of material things. Then there are the veils we might not be able to recognize as easily; like those that have to do with prejudice or doctrine. At times even the most well meaning people get clouded vision. **Isaiah 59:10 (NIV) Like the blind we grope along the wall, feeling our way like men without eyes. At midday we stumble as if it were twilight; among the strong, we are like the dead.**

We end up not seeing what it is that God has intended for us. We miss His plan for our lives. When other things get between us and God, we can not fully see what He has given us. The ability to understand His word

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properly becomes squelched by misinterpreted doctrinal veils. But the life of the true follower of the LORD can be found in **Proverbs 4:18 (NIV)** *The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.* They is no dimness in the vision, nothing to cloud over the sight. No personal veils in the way of God's glory. On the contrary, God's righteousness reflects off of us, growing ever brighter.

With my daughter, her dim and clouded vision would not allow her to see what she needed to look at. Just like our spiritual blindness will not allow us to see what we need to see in the truths of God. But there is healing and hope. My daughter can see just fine, she was healed. For a good starting point to heal our spiritual blindness read **Proverbs 4:23-27 (NIV)** *Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. 24 Put away perversity from your mouth; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. 25 Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you. 26 Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm. 27 Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.*

If we wish to remove the veils from in front of our faces we need to get rid of all perversity and corruption. We must guard our hearts. And above all, look only at the Lord and His path for us.

Distorted Vision

The distorted shape of my son's eye also caused a lack of vision. The eye itself could see but it was the eye lid that was forced closed that caused the inability of sight. There are times when we have such situations in our life as well. Where we have the right idea but it becomes distorted or blown out of place. And instead of being something that is honorable, it actually becomes sinful.

David – the king of Israel – had the honorable idea of bringing back the ark from Kiriath Jearim. It sounds like a very good idea at first, one that should be pleasing to the LORD. But King David got something out of shape. His noble desire to bring back the ark became somewhat distorted. He went about it all wrong.

He knew of what was written in **Numbers 4:15 (NIV)** *"After Aaron and his sons have finished covering the holy furnishings and all the holy articles, and when the camp is ready to move, the Kohathites are to come to do the carrying. But they must not touch the holy things or they will die. The Kohathites are to carry those things that are in the Tent of Meeting.* The instructions to move the ark were simple and precise. Only the Kohathites were to move it and it was to be carried by them. Plus above all, no one was to touch the ark, or any of the other holy things, *"or they will die".*

The good thought of getting the ark back was pushed out of shape and instead of conducting the move in the manner that God had instructed, David decided to place the ark on a cart pulled by oxen. The beasts stumbled and caused the ark to rock on the cart. Another well meaning man named Uzzah did the natural thing of reaching out to steady the ark. Uzzah was stuck down dead by the LORD. (The details of this occurrence can be found in **1 Chronicles 13.**)

What seems to be godly and correct to do may at times turn in to sinful actions that can cause great harm. David certainly learned that lesson with the death of Uzzah.

20/20 Vision

There are many well meaning, good people that have the best of intentions. They believe that they are doing what needs to be done. That they are even doing the will of God. We can not take from them their desire or what is in their hearts. I have no doubt that they believe they are doing what is right. And I do admire the zeal that they go about their work.

But far too often we transform something that should be good and right into something that is sinful. For instance, when well meaning Christians take verses like **Galatians 5:18 (KJV)** *But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.* Claiming that if someone is a Christian then they are not to follow the ways of what they call the Old Testament. I have no doubt that this argument will go on until Y'shua returns. And yet I can not see how there

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can even be any debate with this subject. Especially after reading these verses: **Matthew 5:18 (NAS)** “For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.” And **1 Corinthians 9:20 (NIV)** To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.

And of course there is **Matthew 28:19(NIV)** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” What does this verse have to do with being under the law or not? Simple, everything.

How can we make disciples of all nations if we are too busy telling them that they must throw out everything they have ever known? There was a catch phrase that was going around for a while, “What would Jesus do?” Well we can easily know the answer to this question since **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8 (NIV)**

If you want to know what Jesus **would** do then just look at what he **did** do. Would Jesus tell the Jews that they need to stop following their “Old Testament” holidays and follow him? When Jesus walked the earth he celebrated Sukkot (**John 7 and 8**). He also followed the laws of Passover (the last part of any of the **four Gospels**).

To reject that Jesus celebrated “old” Jewish holidays would be to reject any and all of the Gospels. In fact, such a claim would be in essence to deny all of the New Testament. Since Jesus had followed the holidays, how can we say otherwise when our Jewish cousins find it difficult to let go of these traditions? How can we tell the Jews not to celebrate these holidays when the one we want to lead them to celebrated them?

Therefore, we can not allow such things to distort our vision like a blown out eye. To have something that is right to be malformed and misleading like my son’s eye. Or to let other devises of this world be as a veil just like an injured eye might be clouded over as in my daughter’s case. We must have perfect sight. Our spiritual eyes must be 20/20 vision. For **where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he. (Proverbs 29:18 (KJV))**

For how else can we lead others to Y’shua? How can they see the LORD if we can not see ourselves?