

“CATCH THE VISION”

By Mary Mayko



Psalm 119:18 “Open my eyes to see wonderful things in Your Word.”

Ask God to help you catch His vision! He is more than willing to do so! Have you ever put yourself down? Have you believed the lie that no change for the better could happen in your life? That is a very hopeless and fearful place to live! Ask God to correct your spiritual eyesight!

When a person cannot see properly, everything they look at has some kind of distortion or wrong perception as they gaze on a person or object. Doctors can prescribe corrective lens or even eye surgery that will enhance their vision and enrich their life in the natural! Jesus wants our spiritual vision to be perfect! He often mentioned problems connected with those He called spiritually blind. He used metaphors of real life to explain this spiritual blindness many times.

Sometimes pride can keep us from asking for help from our LORD! He is so concerned over every detail of our lives! He loves it when we come to Him to seek His assistance in some area of our life! Humble yourself before our LORD and He will give you great vision! Ask God daily for protection, guidance and insight! Pray the simple verse from Psalm 119:18 given above! You will be delighted and amazed at what He can show you from His Word!

Proverbs 1:2 “Proud men end in shame, but the meek become wise.”

A proud person is full of arrogance and often very judgmental. They believe they are better than others and deserve only the best. They get angry quickly when things do not go as they expected. They are motivated only by what pleases them as they walk in spiritual blindness!

Proverbs 29:18a “Where there is no vision the people perish.”

To be spiritually blind or near sighted means one has limited knowledge or even lack of discernment concerning their inner spiritual condition. They are often preoccupied with a worldly view of life. They are selfish and unaware of the needs of those around them, or perhaps do not care enough to find out if they could help in some way!

The spiritually blind person has an ultra ego, full of pride and self righteousness. This is quite evident to others but unseen or unrecognized by the spiritually blind person! They truly need to "Catch the Vision!" so they will not stumble in blindness in their walk with the LORD.

Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

On the other hand, we see people that are very near sighted! They have no sense of self worth and often feel they are not quite good enough as a Believer and can become depressed. They sometimes develop the "*I can't do anything right or please anyone*" attitude! They are afraid to reach out to others lest they be rejected. They seem to feel they will always fail to live up to someone's expectations of them and perhaps even God is not pleased with them! Many give up trying to gain the victory over their poor vision, but continue to make an effort to please others! They have lost their vision for fulfilling their own potential or God's plan for their life!

Eph. 1:18 "I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so you can see something of the future He has called you to share!"

When we catch His vision, we are able to see beyond the present moment! God desires we receive discernment and understanding of His plan for each of us. To be able to look at ourselves from God's viewpoint is so important!

Read Eph. 1:4-8. It is full of encouraging words for us. God has chosen us! He makes us holy and without fault in His eyes! He has accepted us in His beloved Son. We have been forgiven! He blesses us! He is the One who understands us completely and knows what is best for us at all times! The Bible tells us we are of great value to the LORD! Look at yourself through the heart and eyes of our God who truly loves us!

How wonderful to catch God's great vision!

“DINNER ON THE GROUND”

By Mary Mayko



Matt. 14:15-20 NIV “As evening approached, the disciples came to Him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.” Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” “We have here only five loaves and two fish,” they answered. “Bring them here to Me,” He said. And He directed the people to sit down on the grass. Asking the five loaves and two fish and looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.”

Dinner on the ground! An evening picnic with Jesus, using a little boys’ supper to feed many thousands of people! When Jesus does something, it is always so much more than we have asked for!

When I was a child, our church would sometimes schedule what they called “**dinner on the ground**”. All the ladies would cook up their special dishes and off we would all go to a little country Schoolhouse grounds where the Central Bible Institute Students held services on Sunday afternoons. [Springfield Mo] The men would set up tables and chairs out on the grounds, while the children chased each other in a game of Tag or some other activity! What great fun! The grownups would catch up on the latest news in their families while everyone enjoyed all that good food!

Later, someone drove a pickup in with a piano in the back and seats for guitar players and the fiddlers and maybe an accordion. Then everyone enjoyed a good old Gospel sing along! After the music, the students would preach and teach and pray. This special outreach from the Bible School was a blessing to everyone!

Wouldn’t it make you feel special if Jesus came and suddenly multiplied a small lunch with plenty left over? What joy those folks who had, when they came to hear Jesus teach and **then was invited to a dinner on the ground with Him!** The Bible tells us of Jesus going to someone’s home and eating with them. Would you have invited Him to your

house if you had lived in His day? Today, we would probably say, "Of course!" but He was not welcomed everywhere He went! Think about that!

In John 21, we read about Jesus being with His disciples and eating with them after His Resurrection! It was early morning that day, when Peter and some of the others decided to go fishing. They had not caught any fish, but heard a Voice calling out to them. V.5 **"Friends, haven't you any fish?"** "No" they answered. He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." Interesting! As they obeyed, they caught so many in the net they couldn't haul them all in!

Peter yelled, "It's the LORD!" Well, Jesus already had a fire going with bread and fish baking on the coals and invited them to **"Come and have some breakfast!"** A meal on the ground again! The LORD is always ready to meet us in unexpected places! Will we come and dine with Him? He knows we need the physical food for our bodies, but many are spiritually starved! **Are you hungry for what the LORD wants to give to you?** Will you open the door for Him to come in and eat with you?

Rev. 3:20 NIV "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."



Hosea 10:12 “Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till He come and rain righteousness upon you.”

“April showers bring May flowers.”

How many times from childhood ‘til now, have you repeated these words? This olde English verse was penned by Thomas Tusser, [1524-1580] and first published in “April’s Husbandry”. This was an agricultural manual much like our “Farmer’s Almanac” but, known for the first to promote rotation of crops.

The verse was written this way:

“Sweet April showers, do spring May flowers”

Under it was a notation: “Some unpleasant circumstances bring pleasant circumstances.”

The problem with April’s rainy days are many, they are dark and dreary. The clouds hang low, making you feel like you are “caged” in. There is no bright cheerful sun that makes every thing shine. The barometric pressure falls, making a person ache even more than usual. Everything is wet and sticky! Rain interrupts our plans, alters everything we had planned. WHILE this is happening, we completely forget about the beautiful May flowers that need this rain!

It is the same, when we are in adverse circumstances. The biggest problem is~ we can’t see the **SON!!** How can God be in this? In fact, where are you, God? **Jesus**, you are **ALL POWERFUL!** Do something!! Can’t you see how this is interrupting my plans? My life? It’s causing me great pain, and everything’s a mess! Every time I turn around there are more problems. How does all this bring glory to your name?

Matthew 5:45 reminds us: “God maketh the sun to rise on the evil, and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just, and on the unjust.”

I’ve had lots of people tell me, “I live for God, I don’t do evil to anyone, I give to my church, why is this happening t o me? What great hidden sin have I committed? Why would He do this to me?”

LIFE [all this earth/world holds] **affects the LIVING!**

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus gives us a very interesting teaching:

“There were present at that season some that told Him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them, “Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, nay: but except ye repent ye shall likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the Tower of Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwell in Jerusalem? I tell you, nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” **Luke 13:1-5**

This event took place at the Pool of Siloam, where Jesus sent the blind man to be healed. This pool was just across the Kidron Valley from the village of Siloam, and was greatly used by the people of Jerusalem. They considered it sacred. Excavators have found ruins of a church from the fifth century, and a monastery from the eleventh century here. The Tower of Siloam was in this general area.

The people presented this case to Jesus, asking; “Why” just like we do. Is it due to their sin? What is the answer for this collapse?

Remember there are Pharisees [lived by the Law 11:37] present, and an innumerable multitude of people [12:1] all waiting for His answer!

Jesus quickly turns their attention from the harsh judgment to the fact, and need of repentance. This collapse could have been due to faulty construction, someone cheating on building materials, a lack of knowledge on building in height, as opposed to breadth. It could have been placed on soil with shifting underground movements, a natural underground disorder of some kind. Gravity itself could have brought it down!

BAD things happen to good people all the time! The **BIG** thing is, have the people involved repented of their sin? Are they ready to meet God? These eighteen people were killed, a terrible **RAIN** in the lives of their loved ones. But, people have gained a great teaching for two thousand years from this accident~~ that’s a lot of “May flowers”! We never know what God will do with dark, rainy events!

Consider these words from **Ecclesiastes 11:4-8** “He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap. As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all. In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether thou shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good. Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is to the eyes, to behold the sun: But if a man live many years, and rejoices in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many.....”

Go shelter someone that is in a rainy season, but don’t make a permanent building~~ leave that for the LORD to do!

God bless you in your walk with Him!

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