

20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 41 (October 2-8, 2016)

By studying the lives of David and Samson, we have learned the danger of the sins of the eyes. This week, we will look at other Scriptures that teach the same lesson.

Sunday, October 2 (read Matthew 5:27-30)

“If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.” (Matthew 5:29)

Jesus is not advocating mutilation of our body, but rather He is teaching us to be very careful about what we look at! I don't believe that any man can pray to the Father during or immediately after a time of looking at pornography unless he is begging God to forgive him for his lusting and to empower him to win the victory over sins of the eyes. Adultery occurs in the head before it occurs in the bed (v. 27-28). Jesus also commands us to be careful about what we touch (v. 30). If physical touching leads to lust and adultery, we need to deal with it at the source. For example, some people may not be able to give friendly hugs without evil thoughts entering the mind. Don't miss the fact that Jesus teaches that there is a literal place called hell where all people will go who do not receive His offer of salvation.

Monday, October 3 (read Matthew 18:7-9)

Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come but woe to the man through whom they come! (Matthew 18:7)

This similar text comes during a time when Jesus is warning His disciples not to do any harm to children (v. 1-6). Based on today's printed verse, how would you like to stand before our holy God after using or selling pornography on earth? Once again, the Lord warns us to be very careful what we touch (hand) and look at (eye). In this text, however, He also reminds us to be careful where we go (foot). Hell is not only a real place, but it is also a place of eternal burning (v. 8-9). Is there any personal gratification worth an eternity in hell? Our children are growing up in a permissive society because we have failed to protect them. Read verses 6 and 7 and then talk to Jesus about your example to the next generation. God has something to say to you!

Tuesday, October 4 (read Matthew 14:22-32)

But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” (Matthew 14:30)

You read this text on September 16 from the standpoint of faith, but I want you to read it again from the standpoint of sight! The text pictures our relationship with Jesus! He is in heaven interceding for us, just like He intercedes for His disciples as they struggle with the wind and the waves (v. 22-24). The Lord still chooses to come to us at the very last minute, when our faith has almost failed (v. 25). He still says, “Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid” (v. 27). He still hears our prayer when we shout, “Lord, save me” (v. 30), but I want you to notice that Peter is doing the impossible until he takes his **eyes** off Jesus and places them on the wind and the waves (v. 29-30). After you experience a gentle rebuke from the Lord for doing the same thing, I pray that you will, like His disciples, fall down and worship Him (v. 33).

Wednesday, October 5 (read Matthew 17:1-8)

When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. (Matthew 17:8)

Today's printed verse is my favorite KLUFROG (Keep looking up—fully rely on God) passage in the Bible. The three chosen disciples have just seen Jesus in His glorified form (v. 2-3). They have just seen Moses and Elijah as they talk with the Lord about their role during the tribulation (see Revelation 11:1-14). Their eyes have seen all this and yet, all they can think of is to offer to build three shelters (churches, monuments, etc.) to honor these three glorified men (v. 4). God the Father speaks in an audible voice to confirm the proclamation He made at His Son's baptism (v. 5; see also Matthew 3:17). While touching His petrified disciples, Jesus says, "Get up! Don't be afraid." (v.7). This leads us back to the main point! When we truly **look up**, our eyes will focus on the only One who offers eternal life!

Thursday, October 6 (2 Peter 1:16-21)

And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. (2 Peter 1:19)

This passage perfectly follows yesterday's devotion. Since we cannot see Jesus with our human eyes, we must learn to rely on His infallible Word! Peter states that he has more confidence in the Bible than he has in the transfiguration that he witnessed with his own eyes when he heard the Father speak in affirmation of His Son (v. 16-18). The only thing **that** experience did for the apostle was to confirm the Word of God in his heart and mind (v. 19); therefore, he gives the strongest endorsement of Scriptures you will find anywhere in the Bible (v. 20-21). If you don't trust God's Word, you will be led astray by the devil's control of **sight** and **sound**. You are asked to live by faith, as we will see in tomorrow's devotion.

Friday, October 7 (read 2 Corinthians 5:1-10)

We live by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

If you travel to Charlottesville and visit the cemetery where my tombstone is placed, you will see today's printed verse on the stone beside mine where my dear **blind** friend, Jodie Kelly is buried. Because she hadn't seen by this world's light for more than a decade, she saw things that I was oblivious to. She had to learn to "live by faith, not by sight." This text teaches that someday all of us will shed these earthly bodies and get new ones, not made by human hands (v. 1). Until then, we groan, as our earthly bodies get weaker (v. 2-4; see also 4:16-17). Notice that God says that our **mortal** bodies will be swallowed up by **life** (v. 4). His Spirit living inside you is His guarantee (v. 5)! Can you "live by faith, not by sight" until this happens? We will conclude this passage tomorrow.

Saturday, October 8 (reread 2 Corinthians 5:1-10)

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:10)

All Christians will stand before Jesus to receive rewards for the things done on earth (v. 10). At that time, only our **motives** and **attitudes** will be judged, because our **sins** have been judged on Calvary and placed on His back. Everything we have done by His grace and for His glory will be rewarded. On the other hand, everything we have done by our talent and for our glory will be burned up (see 1 Corinthians 3:10-15). As you can see in 1 Corinthians 3:15, our souls will be saved because of Calvary, but we will suffer loss when we finally realize that we have done many "good deeds" for our own glory. Our future heavenly lives will far surpass any good moments we enjoy on earth; therefore, "We live by faith, not by sight" (v. 7)!