



SEEING AS HEAVEN SEES

I sighed. We were in church, praise and worship was set to begin, and instead of being joyful at lavishing worship on our King, all I could think of was a particular person in church I found fault with. Like a kindergartener who tattles on a classmate, I went to Lord with my list of complaints against this person and their behavior and began ticking them off.

Praise and worship started and I trailed off in my conversation with the Lord about this person. In my mind, my concerns were serious, but everyone was singing now, so I halfheartedly sang, "You're a good, good Father..."

Before we got to the next stanza, a crying baby interrupted my thoughts. I looked around, but could not see anyone holding a baby.

I limply clapped my hands as we moved into the next verse. The things this person had done to others was captivating me more than the Presence of the Lord. The crying baby screamed loudly. I jerked to my left, where the door to the nursery hallway was. Perhaps it was open and needed closing.

As I found a path through the upraised hands of worshippers to see the door clearly, I was surprised to see that door was firmly closed. And yet, the baby's cries were piercing and incessant.

The Holy Spirit arrested me. I asked Him, "Lord, what is happening here?"

The precious Voice of His that I love so much replied, "That is what the old man's voice sounds like to Me: a crying, angry baby."

"But Lord," I whispered back, "that crying does not even make any sense - there is no understanding it."

I sensed a smile from Him. "You said it, I didn't, but that is right. When the old man is talking, it is a language of whines, baby cries, and fault finding. Now, can you speak to Me in a language that makes sense?"

Of course! I was looking through the lens of the old man at this situation and the old lens moved me out of a place of intimacy with the Lord. I shifted that lens right then and there.

In leadership, it is vital to keep the correct lens on and keep it clean.

Graham Cooke says, *A lens either blocks light or it bends the light... Our lenses, our assumptions, our way of seeing the world, shape the way we interpret the Bible and how we relate to God and people in this world. When you see your lens, you can begin to evaluate them in a conscious manner – what is your witness in the Spirit? Does your lens need to be cleansed? Has your spiritual encounter with God*

exceeded your traditional lens? How many of us have said, "That is me, right there! My recent encounters with God have exceeded my traditional lens.

*...Here is the deal. **You cannot get it if you do not see it. Unless your lens changes, you will not do it. If you cannot see it, you will not say it. You will not think it. You will not do it.***

Acts 9:17- 18: So Ananias left and entered the house, and he laid hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came to Damascus, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to proclaim Christ to both Jews and Gentiles. Immediately something like scales fell from Saul's eye, and he regained his sight...

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

In God's goodness towards us, He arranges situations to reveal the attitudes of our heart – not to embarrass us, but to make us more like Him. He wants us to relate to others from His point of view, from the identity that He gave them, and not from their behavior.

We are all on a journey and the quicker we learn to see situations and others as He sees them, the quicker people around us – ourselves included! – will go to new levels in newness of life.

- 1.** Think of one person who really gets under your skin. Write their name down.
- 2.** Write down the things that really upset you about them.
- 3.** Ask God to remove the blinders from your eyes that are causing you to see their behavior rather than their placement in Christ. Ask Him to help you begin to see them like He sees them.
- 4.** Going back to the points that you wrote down in #2, ask God to show you how He sees them. What Fruit of the Spirit can you apply to each point?
- 5.** Rewrite the points in #2, applying what the Holy Spirit is helping you to see about the person.

Close your time of reflection with this prayer: Father, I give You permission to break in when I'm seeing others through the wrong lens. Help me see them as You see them. Help me to be kind as You are kind. Help me to extend Grace with the same measure that You have extended it to me. I want to see like You see. I want to think like You think. I want to speak in ways that bring others to a greater place of freedom in You. Amen.