

Unfortunately our degree of trust in God often lies more in our ability to foresee a way in which He might answer our prayers than in our belief in His power. If we can't see how He can answer, we tend to doubt that He will answer. We pray, but if we were really honest with God and expressed our thoughts, this is how it would come out: "You know, Lord, that it's just a long shot. I don't see how You can possibly accomplish it, but I'm going to pray for it and see if something just might happen."

--Jerry Bridges

BENJAMIN KEACH'S CATECHISM

(Presented here as originally published – this does not constitute a full endorsement of the Riverside Baptist Church)

Q. 85. Which is the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment is, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man servant, nor his maid servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's." (Exodus 20:17)

Q. 86. What is required in the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment requires full contentment with our own condition, with a right and charitable frame of spirit towards our neighbor, and all that is his. (Heb. 13:5; 1 Tim. 6:6; Rom. 12:15; 1 Cor. 13:4-7; Lev. 19:18)

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Sunday Morning Bible Study -- 10:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship -- 11:00 AM

Prayer and Bible Study Wednesday Evening 6:30 PM

WCWV 92.9 FM – 8:00 AM Sunday Morning

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST REPORT

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

“The Pillar and ground of the Truth” -- 1 Timothy 3:15

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SEEING IS BELIEVING

And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see: For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them. Luke 10:23-24

It has often been said by doubters of all kinds that “I won’t believe it unless I see it.” Such seems to be the case with those who stand in doubt of the Gospel and all that it declares to us of the person and work of Christ Jesus our Lord. It is ironic that many who saw Jesus and the displays of the power of God continued as defiant unbelievers and vehemently denied the Truth when they met Him face to face. Even though surrounded by the witness of the word and a cloud of witnesses that have seen, this rejection of Christ seems to be the order of the day. It has been well said that “there is none so blind as he who will not see.”

The occasion of this beatitude given to these disciples was the report they delivered to the Lord as to what they had seen. To eyes of faith their enthusiasm and excitement seems to leap off the pages as we identify with them. The conviction of a witness as to what they have seen is conveyed to interested hearers to the point of sharing their experience and so it is with much of the narrative we find in the Word of God. It is made even more real and exciting in that it receives confirmation from the Lord Himself. They were amazed. Are we? When spiritually discerned, we see what they saw. Faith is not a substitute for sight; rather it enables true sight and brings the things of Christ into view. Seeing is believing. We see Jesus and believe that He is the way the truth and the life.

The setting here is the return of the seventy who had been sent out by the Lord to the places to which He would come. Their message was to proclaim that He was coming to them. It was along the way that amazing things had happened. They reported that even the devils were subject unto them through the name of Jesus. His answer to them was that He had beheld the fall of Satan and that He had given them power to face the fiercest of opponents to the Gospel. The descriptions are graphic in calling them serpents and scorpions and “all the power of the enemy” (v. 19). His further response directed them to the grace of God and the fact that the true reason of rejoicing was that their names were written in Heaven.

They saw something profound that the world could not see. They saw the power of God being manifested through the authority of the only Begotten Son of God. They were able to rejoice that such power was indeed infinitely superior to any forces that the evil one could muster. They saw, and they believed as their testimony to His Name confirms. These things were not realized as a matter of intellectual conclusion – they were revealed to them as they went in obedience to the Lord’s command. Their hearts were assured as Paul that: *And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen. Romans 16:20.*

They also saw the purpose of God asserted in their presence. The Son declares His accord with the Father in praying, “even so Father for so it seemed good in thy sight (v. 21). He was not addressing them at that point but was rejoicing that these had experienced the revelation (seeing) of who He was. Had not the Psalmist of old declared, *The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant. Psalms 25:14.* Old Simeon in the Temple has declared of the infant Jesus that “Mine eyes have seen thy salvation.” We see the Kingdom (John 3:3). And, the writer of Hebrews declares against a backdrop of what we see in the world that above that “we see Jesus.”

They saw that it was the purpose of God that these things should be revealed by faith. It would not be to any that might think that they had attained by their own efforts or discover God by their own intellect. It was rather that, *For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 1 Corinthians 1:21.*

Furthermore, and above all else, they saw the Christ of God. We witness a poignant scene in the case of the man born blind (see John 9:35-38). He had been sent by Jesus to wash and had never laid eyes on Jesus until He approached him. At this point he had been cast

out of the Synagogue. Jesus asked him if he believed on the Son of God. His question was simply, “who is He, Lord, that I might believe on Him?” Jesus declared Himself at that point and “he worshiped Him.” Thomas famously doubted but responded in deep reverence and belief on seeing Him and responded, “My Lord and My God!” The Lord’s response to him was that many would believe having not seen Him bodily, but on seeing Him by faith.

The declaration of special blessedness to the seventy was that they had literally seen what the prophets of old had desired to see. Moses saw Christ and chose His reproach over the riches of Egypt. Our Lord declared that “Abraham saw my day and rejoiced.” Through the eyes of God-given faith Christ has been in view for centuries: *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Hebrews 11:13.*

The things that the prophets, and these seventy saw, are clearly in the view of all that Love the Lord and are the called according to His purpose while the Gospel is hid from those whose eyes have been blinded by the “god of this world.” O that many would join the refrain and be so thrilled at seeing Jesus. *bhs*

Please consider the quiet victory of Jesus that His Father gave Him. “He shall not strive nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory” (Matthew 12:19-20). These are the words God the Holy Spirit gave Matthew to write into sacred Scripture; they make reference to the meekness, not weakness, of God’s special envoy. His earthly entrance was not a flash-bang method of rushing roughshod over those about him. This coming is without noisiness to draw attention and without the splendor of notoriety. This is the way Christ comes! As a child he grew up in a hill town and in a working class family. This town was in a despised area of the nation. This child was completely obedient to his parents when their requirements of him were according to God’s will. He was trained in his father

Joseph's shop where he worked till he was thirty years old. The only thing we know about his young life occurred on a trip that ended up in the place of worship where he asked questions about the things of God. When he left home he became an itinerate minister. His food was common and he had no place of his own to lay his head at night. His life and work was pure and merciful and peaceful.

His ministry was mostly away from the public. Not once did he make an appointment in advance to preach in a particular place. Every sermon of his was preached as the situation demanded. The size of his congregations never concerned him except when they became too large. Then he would withdraw to a secret place or else bring up a doctrine that thinned the crowd. His most famous sermon on the New Birth was preached to a single Jewish leader. He encountered a Samaritan woman at a well, who was of dubious character, and gave her the water of eternal life. He climbed to a mount where he was transfigured and his audience was three frightened fishermen. While on that mount he was visited by Moses and Elijah; there these fishermen made a grievous mistake of wanting to make tabernacles to each but they missed the nature of the one whom they served. He performed miracles and kind deeds in abundance but never for notoriety.

When he came to the end of his ministry he was captured as if a thief and tried as a criminal. No one could find any sin in his life. Most likely there were not many in attendance at his execution. He had no one that observed his resurrection from the dead. When his work was completed and just before he returned to his Father who had sent him, there were a handful of fearful men gathered on Mount Olivet. These eleven were not many to show for a life's work but he promised them that in a few days they would be immersed in the Holy Spirit. Little did they know he would use them to change the world!

His last words to them were precious as they gathered around him. While they looked at him he was taken up in a cloud, he was headed home to heaven. Yes, without trumpet blast or any noise he was caught up and away. There were no blinding lights flashing, there was no voice from heaven, there was no echo of thunder reverberating, but he returned home to his Father after a thirty-three year absence. There were only two men in white standing by and not myriads of angels in view. There was not even a chorus of heavenly hosts saying, "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lifted up ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in." No, just a cloud opened to receive him from their earthly view. However, in heaven the glorious conqueror of sin and purchaser of our redemption was received as the King of Glory. This was Jesus Christ the Lord. Confederate Chaplain J. C. Hiden (1837-1918) commented, "This is not a noisy process. No machinery is necessary. You need not wait for turbulent exercises of mind before receiving Christ. The Redeemer did not break the bruised reed of the old dispensation. He did not stamp out the expiring sparks in the smoking flax of the mosaic economy. The gospel quietly superseded the legal economy. There was no violent revolution, but a quiet reformation. Have you no interest in this work of Christ? Then remember His 'judgment' and His 'victory.'" --H. Rondel Rumburg

THE SOUL IS THE LIFE OF THE BODY, FAITH IS THE LIFE OF THE SOUL, CHRIST IS THE LIFE OF FAITH –JOHN FLAVEL