

DISCERN II - WHAT DO YOU SEE?

PART 1

⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house [but you failed to extend to Me the usual courtesies shown to a guest]; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair [demonstrating her love]. ⁴⁵ You gave Me no [welcoming] kiss, but from the moment I came in, she has not ceased to kiss My feet. ⁴⁶ You did not [even] anoint My head with [ordinary] oil, but she has anointed My feet with [costly and rare] perfume. ⁴⁷ Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.” ⁴⁸ Then He said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” ⁴⁹ Those who were reclining at the table with Him began saying among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” ⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith [in Me] has saved you; go in peace [free from the distress experienced because of sin].”

Luke 7:44-50 (AMP)

- I. Discernment, like musical talent, is innate, but it is not like the gift of perfect pitch.
 - A. The gift of discernment can be taught, practiced, and developed. (Hebrews 5:12-14)

¹² In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³ Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴ But

solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

- II. Who you are, and where you are in your spiritual development, determines what you currently see of God, others, and yourself.
- A. “An ophthalmologist is an expert in the anatomy, function, pathology, and treatment of the eye.”
 - B. Jesus, the Divine Ophthalmologist, is currently blessing his saints who have chosen to mature over time with a number of final correctives to their spiritual vision.

III. Eye affliction #1 Myopia - Nearsightedness

Definition: This is an affliction of the eye where distant objects appear blurry, while close objects are clear, because the images are focused in front of the retina rather than on the retina. 30% of the population are myopic.

- * Spiritual myopia causes us to see the present only, not the consequences of the future.
- * To give up long term goals for short term, temporary pleasures.
- * A passionate desire for the “now” over the “then.”

- A. Old Testament myopia example – Esau (Genesis 25:27-34)
- ²⁷ The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. ²⁸ Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. ²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. ³⁰ He said to Jacob, “Quick, let me have*

some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.) ³¹ Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright." ³² "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?" ³³ But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.

- * Esau was only able to see his immediate hunger and thereby surrendered his double portion, birthright blessing.
- * Never sacrifice the eternal on the altar of the temporary.
- * Never surrender long-term goals for short term gains.

B. New Testament myopia example – The rich young ruler (Luke 18:18-23)

¹⁸ *A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"* ¹⁹ *"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good--except God alone.* ²⁰ *You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.'*" ²¹ *"All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said.* ²² *When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."* ²³ *When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy.*

- * The handsome, healthy, rich, moral young man, could not see beyond his own riches to his future destiny as a disciple of Jesus.
- * His short sightedness, I believe, lost him apostleship.
- * The Apostle Paul encourages us to keep a balance always between the long term and the short term in all of our spiritual vision. (II Corinthians 4:17-18)

¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

IV. Eye affliction #2 Hyperopia - Far sightedness

Definition: This is an affliction of the eyes where vision is better for distant, rather than nearer objects, because the images are focused behind the retina rather than on the retina. 1/4 of the population is Farsighted.

- * Are you able to see distant things, yet are blind to the immediate necessary steps to get to them?
- * We need to talk less about great futures and focus more on the practical steps to achieve them. (Proverbs 17:24; John 4:35)

²⁴ A discerning person keeps wisdom in view, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth. (Proverbs 17:24 NIV)

³⁵ Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. (John 4:35 NIV)

- * We must view personal prophecies over our lives as, simply, permission to pursue certain goals, rather than futures, that will simply come upon us, without us being co-partners with God.
- * Jesus says we are fully responsible for putting our talents in play. (Matthew 25:18,24-29)

¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ... ²⁴ "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' ²⁶ "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. ²⁸ " 'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.

- * Writers need to write.
- * Medical students need to go to a lot of school.
- * There is no Royal Road to any field of expertise. We must be cold laborers with God.
- * All vision, and no action, is foolishness.

V. The blessing of balanced vision

- A. “Don’t take up the hammer without consulting the blueprint, and don’t live for the blueprint without picking up the hammer.”
- B. “Don’t proceed without planning, but don’t plan without proceeding.”
- C. “See the long term and the short term, and don’t be confused by either one.”
- D. If you are “myopic,” you can see up close, but you can’t see the future. Let Jesus start healing you now!
- E. If you are “hyperopic” you can see the vision, but can’t see the immediate steps necessary to reach it. Let Jesus start healing you now!