

IMAGO DEI – The Eyes of God

February 11-12, 2023

Matthew 9:10-13 (NIV) – While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with Him and His disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice’. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners”.

Hosea 6:6 (NIV) – “For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings”.

Matthew 23:23 (NIV) – “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices – mint, dill, and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law – justice, mercy, and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former”.

“Give me Your eyes for just one second, give me Your eyes so I can see, everything that I keep missin’, give me Your love for humanity; give me Your arms for the broken-hearted, the ones that are far beyond my reach; give me Your heart for the ones forgotten, give me Your eyes so I can see”
– **Brandon Heath**

Psalm 103:6-12 (NIV) – “The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His deeds to the people of Israel: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will He harbor His anger forever; He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us”.

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Jonah 1:1-3 (NIV) – “The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me”. But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord”.

2 Kings 14:23-25 (NIV) – “In the fifteenth year of Amaziah son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel became king in Samaria, and he reigned forty-one years. He did evil in the eyes of the Lord and did not turn away from any of the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit. He was the one who restored the boundaries of Israel from Lebo Hamath to the Dead Sea, in accordance with the word of the Lord, the God of Israel, spoken through his servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hepher”.

“I didn’t go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of Port would do that. If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don’t recommend Christianity” – **C.S. Lewis**

Jonah 1:15-16 (NIV) – Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. At this, the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to Him”.

Jonah 1:17 (NIV) - “Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights”.

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Jonah 2:10, 3:1-3a (NIV) – And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land. Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you”. Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh.

Jonah 3:4-5 (NIV) – Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown”. The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth”.

Jonah 4:1-4 (NIV) – But to Jonah, this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live”. But the Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

“The measure of our love is the measure of our willingness to be inconvenienced” – *Elisabeth Elliot*

Psalm 34:15 (NIV) - “The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are attentive to their cry”.

Jonah 4:10-11 (NIV) – But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left – and also many animals?”