

Who is God?

Your perception of God will determine how you respond to Him.

Luke 24:13-32

- They were followers of Jesus.
- They were kept from seeing Jesus. Why?
- Answer in v.19. NLT states it:
 - He was **a** prophet who did wonderful miracles, **a** mighty teacher highly regarded by both God and people,
 - We **thought** He was the Messiah that will save Israel.

They still had an expectation about Him that was not the truth. Their expectation and perception about Jesus kept them from seeing who He really was. God had to keep their eyes shut, till they understood.

Notice that Jesus had to explain more clearly to them about the Scriptures and the Messiah and only when they grasped that, their eyes were opened and they could see Jesus.

How would this scenario look in today's life?

- All these things sound to me like the average Christians we find today in the church.
- It's been a while since you fed on fresh mannah. Mannah was only good for one day, after one day they had to trust the Lord for fresh mannah.
- If you want to experience God as healer, don't be surprised if sickness knocks on your door – I am not saying God is the author of sickness, certainly not, but God will reign over that situation so that you will see Him in a different way after that.
- If you want to experience Him as provider, don't be surprised if it feels like you have financial challenges. God is not the author of all the bad things that happen to us, but like Rom 8:28 says He work all things together for good and it certainly not says all things that happen to us are good, but that it happens for good for those who are called according to His purpose.

A lot of time we give the devil too much credit for things. It might be that God wants to mature you in the current place, so that you can have a greater understanding of Him or that it would set you up for a higher revelation from Him.

–God wants to move on, but sometimes our mindset prohibits us from experiencing Him.

Israelites – God lead them around the giants, cause in their hearts they could still not understand that He was their mighty fortress and will fight for them.

“Then it came to pass, when Pharoah had let the people go, that God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, “Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt. ”So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt. Ex 13:17-18

Jesus heals blinds man at Bethsaida – vision was blurred, but then Jesus had to touch him a second time and only then his vision was clear. But he had to take him out of his environment.

How does our vision get blurred? Why don't we see the real Jesus?

“You have dwelt long enough at this mountain.” Deut 1:6

“See, I have set this land before you; go in and possess the land which the Lord swore to your fathers – to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – to give to them and their descendants after them. Deut 1:8

You might be saved this morning but you have only dwelled on the riverbanks and have never explored the land. God is calling you to explore your promised land, your destiny, your inheritance. He is waiting for you to reveal more of Himself as you move in faith.

How does our vision get restored for a fresh revelation of Him?

-Story of Job.

Now notice what Job 1:20 says: “Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshipped.”

What happens when these things happen to us? To we complain, murmur, become negative, whatever. I need to say to you that it takes grace to worship in such an event and only God can give that.

- Principle of retribution. In other words – if something goes wrong with you, it must mean that you have probably sinned. If you are blessed and all goes well, then you are doing something right.

So here Job is sitting and his 4 friends are visiting him to “comfort” him.

But all the time God is silent in these conversations. Here we have Job’s 3 friends speaking, very spiritual, but God remains silent.

Then from chapter 33 Elihu starts to give his advice and proclaims the truth about God. He proclaims God’s Justice, condemns self-righteousness, proclaims God’s goodness and then in Chapter 38 God answered.

Now noticed all the friends counceled Job and thought they gave the right advice, but they spoke human reasoning or theology formed by events or occurrences and preconceived notions of who God was.

Then when Elihu spoke the pure word of God without tampering the truth, God appeared and answered.

Our vision, our perception, our expectation of God can only be changed when we start reading the Bible for what it is and believe that God is who He says He is.

The Word on its own will kill you, but you need to mix it with faith in order to activate it. When God see such a heart that hear the Word and act upon it, it stirs Him and He moves.

Explain Dake:

For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they have heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. Heb. 4:2

-Two types of Christians in the body. Those that expect to see what they can become in God and then those who expect to see what God can become in them. We found a lot of Christians today that are hoping to see what they can become in God instead of dying to themselves and like John the Baptist said – He must increase and I must decrease. Notice the order – its not the other way around, where I must decrease first – cause then it would be self-righteousness. We are changed as we behold Him and He becomes more in us.

God chose ordinary people, fishermen – if he would've live today, Jesus would've never gone to the church to pick his disciples.

These were ordinary men and all they were asked to do was to follow Jesus. On their CV's they would've not qualified – but they were willing to lay down their lives and follow Jesus. For 3 years they were walking with Jesus, seeing miracles, sitting under the best teacher – I mean the Master Himself and then after 3 years when Jesus was captured and Peter was confronted whether he know Jesus he denied Him.

I propose to you this morning, that not only was the time ready for Jesus to be crucified, but the time was also ready and drawing near for the disciples to experience a fresh revelation from God. They were about to experience the resurrection that would forever change the history of mankind, but also would shift them to a higher gear and enable them to serve the Lord till the end. If they have ever doubted a lot of things, a lot of that was erased when they saw the resurrected Jesus. Ordinary men that had the challenges of everyday life, but when God revealed himself in a new way to them it caused them to go to extreme lengths for the gospel, even to the point of death!