SEEN TO UNSEEN

Important that we all shift together..... When you shift you make it safe for those around you to shift....

Church Goal #3: That we would begin to see a new reality where God dwells, the Spiritual Realm. That we would reject the twisted reality that the world feeds us and embrace what is truly real.

INTRODUCTION

Family Devotions from 101 Scientific Facts and Foreknowledge

- Read Fact #2
- **Hebrews 11:3** By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Back in the 1590’s Zacharias Jansen and his father Hans, were “spectacle makers”. One day they were experimenting and put several lenses on top of each other. What they saw on the other side of those lenses was magnified several times.....they had discovered/created the first microscope!

Before this time they thought that blood was produced in the intestines and then consumed by the rest of the body tissues....having no idea about our circulating system until someone saw capillaries in the tail of a live fish.

Imagine what it was like to live then....when you realize that there is a complex world inside the body that you cannot see, that is responsible for what you experience on the outside!

The human body at the cellular level, the one that we can’t see, is very different but not completely removed from the physical body we can see. All the microscope did was allow us to see it. A new world. One that was there all along, but not seen with the human eye.

The shift from Seen to Unseen is like this. It allows us to see things in the spiritual realm that have always been there; they are just as real as things in the visible world, and even responsible for the condition of the visible world, but remain invisible to those who cannot see.

The 4th dimension....
We have been trained by our culture to focus on only a certain set of things and we walk around obeying their logic and accepting their reality.

At the end of the book of John we read about how Thomas had missed out on seeing Jesus after the resurrection when the other disciples saw Him.

So they were telling him what they had seen and Thomas replied.... (John 20)

“Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.”

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them.

Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

**TEXTUAL WORK: I WANT TO SEE**

Remember our story in Mark.

- Jesus and the disciples walking on the road
- Disciples arguing about who is the greatest
- Jesus tells them to become like little children
- The Disciples obviously are still not getting all of this because 2 of them come again to Jesus and ask if they can sit on his left and right in glory!
- Notice what Jesus says to them when they come to him..... “What do you want me to do for you?” (Mark 10:36)
- After Jesus teaches them about what is means to be a servant...They continue on their way, and eventually they came to a town called Jericho.

Alongside the road was a blind man named Bartimaeus who cried out, —Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me! (vv. 46–47).

When Jesus heard him, he called Bartimaeus over and asked the same question he asked the disciples earlier: —What do you want me to do for you? (v. 51, see v. 36).

The blind man’s answer was very different: —Rabbi, I want to see! (v. 51).
In that moment, Jesus healed him and —immediately he received his sight and *followed Jesus along the road* (v. 52, emphasis added).

In the New Testament, blindness is a powerful metaphor for what is wrong with us in our natural state. The healing of blindness is a metaphor for what God is trying to do in salvation. In the Gospels, blindness is never just physical, but spiritual as well.

Earlier, Jesus had asked the disciples, —Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? . . . Do you still not understand? (Mark 8:18, 21). Immediately following that conversation, he healed a blind man while his disciples continued to commit one blunder after another (vv. 22–26). So by the time Bartimaeus was healed of his blindness and joined Jesus on the way, there were the disciples who had followed Jesus for two years, but were still blind; and there was Bartimaeus, who had followed Jesus only a few minutes but could see clearly.

The shift from Seen to Unseen is like being healed of blindness to things that are eternal. It goes beyond believing in things you can’t see to seeing things *because* you believe in them. Faith is not believing in things that are not there.....it is seeing the depth of what is really going on around you, perhaps for the first time ever.

Listen to David Drury explain it:

Most Christian say they believe in things they can’t see, but this is like a blind man saying he believes in the world around him, even though he remains blind. Instead, when we are cured of spiritual blindness, we ......

2 Corinthians 4:18

..... fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

God awakens our senses for discerning his activity in this world, and we see his fingerprints everywhere. Paul prayed

..... that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you.....

Ephesians 1:18

God has given us two sets of eyes—one on our face to see what is happening in the visible world, and the other in our hearts to see what is happening in the invisible world. Opening the other eye never changes anything in the visible world, but it
explains and reveals a completely different set of realities that can teach us how to live in the visible world.

Faith is not seeing what is not there......Faith is to see what is already there...

Illustration: story of Elisha and the servant (2 Kings 6:8-23)

- King Aram was angry with the Prophet Elisha
- He found out where the prophet and his servant were staying and sent “horses, chariots, and a strong force there”. At night they surrounded the city
- Next morning the servant goes out to enjoy the morning and sees the army surrounding the city.
- “What shall we do?”
- “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”
- The servant’s thinking “he’s lost his mind!”
- Elisha prayed “O Lord, open his eyes so he may see”
- He saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha

We need to pray as Bartimaeus did, —Jesus, son of David . . . I want to see!

**IMPLICATIONS: WHEN WE ARE HEALED OF OUR BLINDNESS**

**It Causes a Sudden Shift in Our Values**

We begin to assign to things the importance they have in reality. Things of the Spirit are the most essential in the world, not hobbies.

**To Shift is to live in a different reality!**

Right next to our heads is a world where the poor in spirit own the kingdom of God and the meek inherit the earth, the poor are rich, and the rich go away empty. When we see what is unseen, we do not just wait for heaven to come; we notice the ideals of heaven and value them.

**We Discover That We Are Never Alone**

Like disciples walking next to Jesus on the road to Emmaus, when our eyes are opened, we recognize Jesus in the mundane places of life, and our hearts burn within us.

**We Are Empowered To Do Things We Never Thought We Could Do**

**APPLICATION: MOVING FROM SEEN TO UNSEEN**
Pray —Jesus, son of David . . . I want to see! daily and before every meeting, service, and appointment in your week.

Change your vocabulary

Learn new ways to talk about ordinary things. Instead of saying something happened, say —the Lord allowed. Instead of telling what you received, share how —God provided. Speaking of the world in physical terms (whether scientific or humanistic language) is only one way of describing what happens. Begin to practice using other language.

Take the time to notice

What is REALLY going on in your life? What is God trying to do?? We must stop going through the motions and open our eyes to what God is doing all around us! It is happening.....do you feel it?? We as a church are shifting.

We must let the reality of the Kingdom of God guide our decisions, not the pressures of this material world.

CONCLUSION

May God continue to open our eyes. May he help us develop our faculties for seeing the unseen. Like the servant of Elisha, may God open our eyes to see that the hills are on fire with the presence of God. May Christ open our eyes today. May we begin to see here on earth what everyone will see in heaven. Let’s pray for that together.

God is lighting up the sky all around us, can you see it?? Ask Him to show you. A new mindset. A new focus. A new reality.

Lightning show Thursday night

Show “Light Up The Sky” by the Afters

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8LQH6UDi15s

God wants to LIGHT UP YOUR SKY!! DON’T MISS IT!!!

Remember that “Fix your eyes” verse?

2 Corinthians 4:18

.... fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.
“Fix our eyes” here means to look at, direct your attention to

**Hebrews 12:2**

2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

“Fix our eyes” here is a little different. It is a Greek word used only 1 time in the Bible. It is more than looking intently at....there is another part. And that is to look away from. It means to look away from that which holds your attention, and look to something else....Jesus.

**Reinforce Goal:** That we would begin to see a new reality where God dwells, the Spiritual Realm. That we would reject the twisted reality that the world feeds us and embrace what is truly real.

Each week – do something practical that helps to reinforce what we are learning with each shift. Hold a prayer vigil where the church is opened and we can come and pray around the clock. ☺