Eyes on Jesus
Daily Devotions for Lent and Easter
Lisa M. Clark
ASH WEDNESDAY
AND THE DAYS FOLLOWING
ASH WEDNESDAY

**Misjudging Eyes**

Read Mark 14:3–9

But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to Me.” (Mark 14:6)

When we see Jesus, what do we see? Is He our teacher? a healer? our guest at the dinner table? Yes, He is, just as He was all those things to the people who were visiting with Simon the (former) leper in the reading for today’s devotion. But He is much more than that.

A woman saw Jesus and knew what He was going to do: He was going to die; and she honored Him in the best way she knew how. She came with costly perfume and offered it to Him, anointing His head.

When we see other believers, what do we see? The disciples and others gathered that day saw a foolish woman who wasted good money. But Jesus saw a woman with wisdom beyond her peers, for she freely gave Him her love and devotion.

“She has done a beautiful thing to Me.” Jesus honors this woman in a beautiful way, ensuring that we still would read of her deed. He promised the others, “What she has done will be told in memory of her” (v. 9).

Lord Jesus, forgive our misjudging eyes, which forget who You are and forget others who love You. In Your name we pray. Amen.
And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. (Genesis 1:31)

It was good. It was very good. Those words might seem ordinary to our ears, but there was nothing ordinary about what God saw when He looked upon His completed creation. It was very good. It was perfect and whole.

Have you ever seen perfection? Think about it. What is the most amazing, most beautiful, most awe-inspiring thing you have ever beheld?

It wasn’t perfect.

Adam and Eve had seen perfection in the paradise God had made for them, but with their sin, all of creation fell. Rocks, trees, animals—all fell under the curse that came with sin.

Now, our vision is imperfect. We see a sin-filled world with sinful eyes.

Even when God watched His very good creation fall subject to death, decay, and destruction, He saw the end. He knew that He would send His Son to become like His creation in order to redeem it. More than that, He would restore it. There will come a day, God promises, when He will make a new heaven and a new earth.

On that day, we will see perfection, and it will be very good.

Lord of Creation, look at me through the promise of resurrection and restoration. Keep my eyes focused on the day when I will see You and all things made perfect. Amen.
Eye Opener

Read Genesis 3:6–7

Then the eyes of both were opened.
(Genesis 3:7)

Have you ever had an eye-opening experience? This kind of event can be any time you suddenly realize something you didn’t before. Sometimes that’s a good thing. You learn a great lesson. You gain a special insight. Sometimes that’s a bad thing. You realize that someone had been lying to you. You learn of a terrible truth.

Adam and Eve thought that they wanted their eyes to be opened. They wanted to be like God, knowing the things He knew. And what did they learn?

They learned that they were naked. They learned that they were not God. They learned that they had made a terrible, horrible, irreversible mistake. Maybe Adam and Eve suddenly wished they could undo, un-know, unsee what they had done.

But it was too late. And now, we often see more than we want. We see pain, death, suffering, anger, and all kinds of evil.

Jesus sees it all too. He saw it all as He endured it all on the cross. He has seen every sin that you have ever done, and there is nowhere to hide it. It’s all laid bare.

And because Jesus saw it all, and paid for it all, He now sees us as forgiven. Holy. Redeemed. That is an eye-opening truth that fills us with joy.

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to see Your love and Your mercy.
Amen.
Look toward Heaven

Read Genesis 15:4–6

Look toward heaven, and number the stars.

(Genesis 15:5)

Some of us may not be able to see the stars between all the buildings and streetlights. Others of us may see stars so often that we don’t think to look up and gaze at them with wonder anymore.

When was the last time you looked up at a sky full of stars and marveled at the Creator who made them?

Abraham looked up at those stars thousands of years ago, and God Himself spoke. God promised Abraham a family of descendants that would outnumber the stars. Even more than that, One in Abraham’s line would make the children of Abraham the children of God.

In Jesus, born in the line of Abraham, all who believe in God are numbered with Abraham’s descendants—and there are more of us than there are stars in the sky.

So the next time you look at the stars, think of God, who had the power and creativity to make them. And also think of all your brothers and sisters in Christ, who are so many they would outshine the heavenly bodies with the light of God’s Word to a darkened world.

Lord Jesus, You fulfilled the promise to Abraham when You were born. And we are a part of that promise too. Help us to shine as stars with Your light. Amen.
Lent
Week One
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

See, I Must Suffer

Read Matthew 16:21–23

From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem. (Matthew 16:21)

We sometimes try to shield our eyes from difficult truths. We turn off the news report. We scroll past the breaking news. We look away from the homeless person sitting on the bench.

It can seem too much to bear sometimes. We just can’t handle all the bad news, the sad stories, the painful realities.

But Jesus sees it all. He knows it all. And He carries it all on His shoulders.

Jesus told His disciples that He was going to Jerusalem. He told them that He was going to suffer. He told them that He would die and then rise.

But His disciples didn’t want to listen. Peter, in fact, scolded God Himself!

We, His disciples, do the same, don’t we? We ignore the suffering. We hide our hurt. We tell God He doesn’t know what He’s doing when we ignore His Word, when we plug our ears to the suffering of others, when we tell Him that all the hurt in this world is His fault.

And Jesus sees it all. He knows it all. And He carries it all—even our sins against Him—on His shoulders. He then takes it to the cross and defeats it all with His death and resurrection.

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we refuse to see all that You’ve done for us. Help us to see what You did for all on the cross and help us to show others. Amen.