

The Seeing Eye

#0852

Study given by W. D. Frazee--August 20, 1960

God is in the business of making eyes that see and ears that hear.

"The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them" Proverbs 20:12.

Tuesday evening some of us looked up into the sky and saw that new satellite passed across the heavens. In just a few minutes it had passed across that part of the sky where we could observe its progress, and we were told that a thousand miles up that device was whirling on its way, completely encircling the world in less than two hours. It is a wonderful thing. But the next evening I saw something that impressed me very much more than that satellite did. I stood with Brother and Sister Cooper in their little garden and watched a moon flower unfold. They told us it was going to open at twilight. They said it will open in about five minutes. It was a whitish green bud. Presently that bud began to stir and unfold. In a few minutes it had opened up. It had a big, beautiful, white bloom. It would bloom all night so the little insects could enjoy themselves inside.

I must tell you honestly, that gave me far more a feeling of awe than watching that satellite in the sky. After all, the works of man are so limited. It is wonderful to measure and weigh something; to calculate the pull of gravity, the size of the sphere and the speed it must go in order to reach the proper place. But think of the One who has calculated the size and weight of millions upon millions upon millions of satellites and worlds and suns and systems and universes.

"Lift up your eyes on high and behold who hath created these things" Isaiah 40:26.

The One who has not only calculated the weights and measurements of all the heavenly bodies, but has by His creative word made them from nothing and placed them there, and has so arranged them that they pursue their orderly march across the trackless fields of space, and their coming and going can be predicted to the fraction of a second, because He bringeth out their host by number in mathematical order and precision.

Yet there is something more wonderful to me in that little flower unfolding than all the order of the starry host, for here was life. We saw it surging into those delicate folds, causing them to burst into bloom. There is a statement my mind went to as I saw that happen:

"The God of nature is perpetually at work. His infinite power works unseen, but manifestations appear in the effects which the work produces. The same God who guides the

planets works in the fruit orchard and in the vegetable garden. . . . but it is through God's immediate agency that every bud bursts into blossom" *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, page 186.

It is through God's immediate agency that every bud bursts into blossom. Who was there in the garden the other night? God was. And this is nothing remotely kin to the pantheistic idea that would make God an impersonally thing, in essence pervading all nature. Not so, my friends. The living, personal God was there the other night. It was through His immediate agency that bud burst into bloom right there while we stood and watched it; right there while we stood and watched God at work. God we saw not. But as the movement of the trees betrayed the presence of the wind, so the life surging movements in that flower indicated the presence of our God, the Creator.

Oh, I thank God I know that, and have simple faith to believe it, don't you? I thank God for the hearing ear, and the seeing eye.

We have a wonderful statement concerning the way in which Jesus received His education as a boy, a young man:

"His education was gained directly from the Heaven appointed sources; from useful work, from the study of the Scriptures and of nature, and from the experiences of life—God's lesson books, full of instruction to all who bring to them the willing hand, the seeing eye, and the understanding heart" *Education*, page 77.

Did Jesus have the seeing eye? Oh, yes. Everywhere He went He saw something in nature. Whenever He opened the Word of God He saw something. Whenever He went to the carpenter shop or joined in the home chores He saw something. Whenever He mingled with the people and shared their experiences, or in hours of prayer and meditation examined His own, He saw something. He had the seeing eye. Thus it was He was educated. What reached His mind through the seeing eye and the listening ear was what developed Him and made Him the Prince of teachers.

We are told that every child may gain knowledge as Jesus did. Isn't that wonderful? Of all the days of the week, the Sabbath day is the greatest day to use the seeing eye in nature and the Word of God, and in examining and meditating on the experiences of life which God has given through the week. The Sabbath is to be preeminently the day of education.

That is why in our training program here at Wildwood we look at the week-end not as time off from school, but as time on. If a person needs a day off in the sense we are studying, he had better take it on Monday or Wednesday. The Sabbath is the great day for Christian education.

"The value of the Sabbath as a means of education is beyond estimate" *Education*, page 250.

How much do you estimate it? Well, it is beyond that. Let us never think of the Sabbath as a day off. It is the great day in God's program of education. Here our eyes are to be opened and our ears are to be alert. It was while men slept that the enemy sowed tares. So on this day all our senses are to be awake. Every brain cell is to be functioning. Every sense organ is to be at its best.

That is why we are told it is not well to eat much on the Sabbath. We are not working hard physically as a rule, and the less in the stomach the more in the brain as far as energy is concerned. I thank God for the glorious opportunity we have to make the Sabbath a time when the listening ear and the seeing eye is focused on these great lesson books of the Word of God, the works of God and the ways of God; His dealings with human life. Ah friends, we indeed have a glorious privilege and a wonderful opportunity.

I want you to notice something at the beginning of Psalm 92. You will find a little line in small type which is its name. It comes down from the ancient Hebrew. It is translated along with the psalm itself. It says a song or psalm for the Sabbath day. Well, this is the right day to look at it and study it. I want you to notice how the works of God and the Word of God are blended in the contemplation of the psalmist. And he has labeled it a song for the Sabbath day:

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O most High: To shew forth Thy lovingkindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night, Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the psaltery; upon the harp with a solemn sound. For Thou, LORD, hast made me glad through Thy work: I will triumph in the works of Thy hands. O LORD, how great are Thy works! and Thy thoughts are very deep. A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this"
Psalm 92:1-6.

What is the matter with the foolish man? He has eyes but he doesn't see. He has ears but he doesn't hear. He has a brain but it doesn't function on these matters. To him the music of heaven is not discerned.

I have looked at a mule on the farm and watched him at the sunset hour, and I have thought as I have seen the heaven's ablaze with color with God's benediction what does the mule get out of it? Probably nothing more than the thought that it is time to get some corn. Do you know that is all millions of people get out of it? Time to go to supper. That is about all they get out of a sunset.

The psalmist says to not be as the horse or the mule, which has no understanding. If you have the seeing eye, that blazing glory in the west awakens thoughts of praise and gratitude to God. Thank God for an eye that sees and a heart that appreciates.

I am sorry to say there are millions of men who do not see it. If you should stop them in their mad race to get down the highway and bid them look out the

window and behold the glory, they would say, Yes. Pretty, isn't it? And return to watching that highway and listening to the latest radio broadcast. Oh, what they are missing by the minute as the glory of God unfolds.

It takes more than a great sight to make a great impression. It takes an eye that sees. And our text says that the Lord has made both the hearing ear and the seeing eye. Thank God if you have them.

If you do not have them, ask God for them, because He is in the business of remaking our eyes as He is in the business of re-making our hearts. He will do both if we will let Him.

We have mentioned from this Psalm that the Sabbath is especially the day for such study and contemplation, such use for the seeing eye and the listening ear. Notice:

"God designs that the Sabbath shall direct the minds of men to the contemplation of His created works. . . . The beauty that cloths the earth is a token of God's love. We may behold it in the everlasting hills, in the lofty trees, in the delicate flowers. All speak to us of God. The Sabbath, ever pointing to Him who made them all, bids men open the great book of nature and trace therein the wisdom, the power, and the love of the Creator" *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 48.

What are we to see with the seeing eye as we look out upon that beautiful panorama of nature? We are to see the wisdom of God, the power of God, and the love of God. They are written there for the eye that can see. They are there.

Can you trace them? Can you go over the writing of God and say? Yes, I see it. There is His wisdom. There is His power. Yonder is His love.

How will we learn it? We will learn it just as we learn to read the English language. You know how it is. There was a time when words were all Greek to you. But everybody here who understands what I am saying has already learned what A and B and C and D and E and F and G are, and how to put them together to make words either in reading or writing.

Dear ones, if we will go with God out into nature and ask Him to teach us where to see His wisdom, where to see His power, and where to be impressed with His love, we can learn.

"Nature speaks to us without ceasing. The open heart will be impressed with the love and glory of God as revealed through the works of His hands. The listening ear can hear and understand the communications of God through the things of nature" *Steps to Christ*, page 85.

Listen and look. Ah, thank God for the seeing eye and the listening ear. Aren't we glad God has surrounded us with these things that are worth looking at and worth listening to? I rejoice in that this morning.

Here is one of my favorite quotations. I learned it when I was a boy. It came back to me this morning as I was meditating on this subject. I looked it up to share it with you.

"The Sabbath calls our thoughts to nature, and brings us into communion with the Creator. In the song of the bird, the sighing of the trees, and the music of the sea, we still may hear His voice who talked with Adam in Eden in the cool of the day" *The Desire of Ages*, page 281.

Isn't that nice? Would you like to hear God like Adam heard Him in Eden? Well, go out in the garden, the woods, the meadows, or on the mountainside, and listen. In a bird's song you will hear the message of God. In the sighing of the wind through the trees you are hearing an echo of our Father's voice telling His tender thought of us. Thank God, it is true.

Isn't it a pity that men will travel for miles to hear something they think is wonderful, some spectacular manifestation that is supposed to be from some other planet and get all excited about it? And all the while they could be listening to the voice of the Creator. One great purpose of the Sabbath morning service is that we may share with one another the lessons we have learned from the Word of God, the works of God, and the ways of God in human experience.

What have you observed this last week with the seeing eye? What have you heard with the listening ear? This is the time to share some of those thoughts with others. Here is a sample of what I mean:

I was meditating this week on a lesson from nature that I have never pondered before. Of all the works of the enemy that there are in nature, how few there are compared with what there could be. We go out into the woods and tangle with a bramble and say, The Devil has been here. And he has. Those thorns are the work of the enemy. But there is vine after vine on this place that do not have any thorns at all.

That is the wonderful thing. God has said to the enemy, Stay back. You can put a few thorns on so people who can see will discern what a brute you are, but listen. You are not going to put those thorns on everything. I am going to let My children see beauty that has not been marred with those ugly thorns.

How many of you have ever heard of a Black Widow spider? You know that when it bites people it can make them sick. It has poison in it. But there are only two species of spiders on this place that are poison. There are dozens of kinds of spiders, little ones and big ones. We see them in the woods, and even in the house occasionally. They have a mission to perform. Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived observed they even got into the king's palace.

Remember that of all the dozens and scores of species of spiders, the only ones around here you need to have any fear of are the Black Widow and the Brown Recluse. God has put His label on them. If you have a seeing eye, you can find out what it is.

Isn't it wonderful that God has been so merciful to put the brakes on the Devil? The Devil would like to make everything poisonous and everything thorny. Do you know what the Devil would do with the birds if he could? He would probably have some of them multiply more than we have any idea of. We are told that the Devil would destroy the song birds if it were not for the protecting care of God (*The Desire of Ages*, pages 356,357). Think of it. There would not be a Cardinal or a Carolina Wren or a beautiful thrush with its lovely flute-like voice left on this place. Every one would be dead if the Devil had his way.

God has put the brakes on him. I say that as we see the marks of the curse, the poisonous insects or reptiles, the thorny brambles all through nature, let us thank God that it is as little as it is; that there are as few evidences of the Devil's power that there are. And let us rejoice in the multiplied evidences of God's love, His tender care, and His multiplied mercies.

Let me share some verses with you, a lament over eyes that do not see, ears that don't hear, and hearts that don't feel anymore:

God pity eyes that have not seen the dawn,
Twilight or shadow or a wind-blown tree;
But pity more the eyes that look
Upon all loveliness and yet cannot see.

God pity ears that have not caught
The notes of wind or wave or violin or bird;
But pity more the daily music floats
To ears that hear and yet have never heard.

God pity hearts that have not known
The gift of love requited, comforted and caressed;
But God pity more the hearts that drift
From love's high moment to forgetfulness.

This is the tragedy of common sense,
To dim all wonders by indifference.

I repeat. It takes more than a great sight to make a great impression. It takes the seeing eye. Thank God. If we will watch for the evidences of God's love and wisdom and power in God's world about us, if we will watch the things that show us how wise and how loving He is, and then tell those things to one another as we meet on the Sabbath and through the week, thank God, we can bring glory to His name, and we can cultivate those traits which will make us wise students in the school of God.

Whatever it is you have to bring to the glory of His name and the edification of your fellow Christians, speak as God shall give you tongue and utterance.

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