

## 3 - MINUTE SERMONS

### EYE TROUBLE

The word “eye” (singular and plural) is used in the Bible in at least 570 verses. It is used to refer to the literal eye; and, it is used figuratively for “discernment, judgment, that by which the mind apprehends.”

All of us regret blindness. “And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us” (Matthew 9:27). One can easily imagine the desperation of these two blind men. It would seem that the one occupation left for the blind was to beg (Mark 10:46). In any case, blindness would be a pitiful and regrettable way of life.

Consider the figurative use, as in Matthew 15:14, “...they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.” Whether this blindness was because of ignorance or self-imposed, the result would be the same. So, let us notice some conditions of the eye, used figuratively, which may be found in some people.

Many simply have eye infection. A little dust would be annoying; but a larger and abrasive object could be dangerous, even destroying the eye sight. Did you know that if you have this kind of eye problem, that Jesus calls you a hypocrite? (Matthew 7:3-5).

Some are near-sighted-they are able to see only at close range. “He that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins” (2 Peter 1:9). These are the ones who will often make judgments based on inadequate information (Matthew 7:1-5), instead of making righteous judgment (John 7:24). These quickly see their own desires, their likes and dislikes, instead of following the scriptural injunction, “let each esteem others better than themselves” (Philippians 2:3).

Others are far-sighted. These never see themselves when sin and foolishness are under consideration. The Lord rightly exposed such individuals (John 8:7-9). We are told to “examine yourselves” (2 Corinthians 13:5). A close examination can cure far-sightedness. Indeed, heaven is our ultimate goal; but we must not forget the lesser goals, along the way, which are necessary to our achieving the greater one.

Some merely close their eyes. 20/20 vision is of no value when eyes are closed. Jesus identified such people, “For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes,...” (Matthew 13:15). Some of the Corinthians had closed their eyes to sin and error (1 Corinthians, chapters 5 and 6). This may happen to an individual or to a whole congregation. Most of us have seen little fellows close their eyes and pretend something or some one is gone; but the object is not gone, it is still there. Closing our eyes will not cause sin or error to go away; it is still there! Some close their eyes to duty (James 2:10), or opportunity (Galatians 6:10). But, these will not go away, they are

still there, as much as we might wish otherwise.

Finally, some have a blind-fold over their eyes. The troublers of Jesus put a blind-fold over His eyes (Luke 22:64). This, of course, did not keep Jesus from seeing who they were or what they were doing; but a blind-fold over our eyes can keep us from seeing anything. Paul says of Israel, “their minds were blinded” (2 Corinthians 3:14). This blind-fold was put on them by the Devil, just as he can blind-fold us today (2 Corinthians 4:4). Be not deceived thereby!

Now, when we have harmful eye conditions, we need corrective measures. Like the blind who came to Jesus, we want our eyes opened (Matthew 20:33). We need to “anoint thine eyes with eye-salve, that thou mayest see” (Revelation 3:18). The advice of Peter is enough, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:2). My friend, do you have any of the above eye conditions?