

Seeing

Luke 2:8-32

Christmas season engages the senses. Our sermon series unpacks what Scripture says about The Five Senses, as we pursue deeper lessons about life and faith.

Three lessons on **seeing** in the Old Testament:

(1) What you *can't* see: God's face

- The Lord to Moses: "But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live... You shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen." (Exodus 33:20,23)

(2) What you *can* see: the truth of God's existence and great works

- "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard." (Psalm 19:1-3; cf. Romans 1:20)

(3) What you *can't* see: what God is up to

- See Ecclesiastes: What's God's plan for this world? Where's it all going? We can't see the answers, and we only know the answers if God tells us. (i.e. revelation from God)

Now let's hear Luke 2:8-32, and note all that is *seen*:

- A baby, who is called Savior, Christ, and Lord (2:11-12)
- An angel and a multitude of angels (2:13-14)
- Salvation (2:30)
 - **This is what God is up to!** See (3) above.

What about (1) above—**Did they see God when they saw Jesus?**

- "The Son is the image of the invisible God..." (Col 1:15; cf. Heb 1:3)
- "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and **we have seen** his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

So now can we see God's face and live? Consider Revelation 1:14, 17-18.

Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. Read Exodus 33:20,23. Why is it important for us to know that God's face can't be seen? How does this help us spiritually and practically?
2. God's existence and power is known from his works, including the natural world (Psalm 19:1-3; Romans 1:20). What part of the created world amazes and inspires you?
3. Read Luke 2:8-32. What amazing things were seen in this passage?
 - Even though they saw these amazing things, it's still true that "we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Cor 5:7) Meditate on how this is true, and how we wait to see even more amazing things in the future.