

The Eyes of Jesus

There is an old time song called the Eyes of Texas. You may know it and some of the lyrics...

1 *The eyes of Texas are upon you, All the live long days, The eyes of Texas are upon you, And you cannot get away. Do not think you can escape them, From night till early in the morn, The eyes of Texas are upon you, Till Gabriel blows his horn*

The song is talking about patriotism for those that are from Texas. That once a Texan, always a Texan and that wherever you go, whatever you do, know that Texas is watching, you can run, but you can't hide. In...

Matt 26:31-35

2
31 Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered.' **32** "But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee." **33** But Peter answered and said to Him, "Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away." **34** Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you that this very night, before a cock crows, you shall deny Me three times." **35** Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You." All the disciples said the same thing too.

This is the occasion of the last supper when Christ is with the disciples on the night before His arrest. He tells them that the prophecy is to be fulfilled that...

3 *"The sheep of the flock shall be scattered"*

This is a direct reference to the disciples and they knew it. That's when Peter says that even though everyone falls away, he won't.

Luke 22:54-62

4
54 And having arrested Him, they led Him away, and brought Him to the house of the high priest; but Peter was following at a distance. **55** And after they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter was sitting among them. **56** And a certain servant-girl, seeing him as he sat in the firelight, and looking intently at him, said, "This man was with Him too." **57** But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him." **58** And a little later, another saw him and said, "You are one of them too!" But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" **59** And after about an hour had passed, another man began to insist, saying, "Certainly this man also was with Him, for he is a Galilean too." **5**
60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, a cock crowed. **61** And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a cock crows today, you will deny Me three times." **62** And he went out and wept bitterly.

Peter gets caught up in his fear of being arrested too and denies Jesus, denies being with Him, and denies being one of His disciples. Then...

6 *"61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter"*

7 The eyes of Jesus were upon him. Peter felt the gaze of Jesus, but it wasn't that Jesus looked at him it was that Jesus looked into him, looked into his heart, and saw there who Peter was, is, and will be. That is the idea of Jesus looking at us. Note Peter's reaction to knowing that Jesus was seeing him, the real him...

Mark 14:71-72

8

71 But he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this man you are talking about!" **72** And immediately a cock crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had made the remark to him, "Before a cock crows twice, you will deny Me three times."

Peter, in his zeal and passion, had made a bold and confident statement that he would never deny Christ, even if it meant death. Peter ignored the principle that I call, wiggle room. He didn't take into account the possibility that maybe Jesus and the prophecies were right, ya think? Regardless of how strong we think we might be, when we walk into the lion's den, we place ourselves at his mercy.

Peter did indeed deny Jesus, and when he did, Luke tells us that Jesus turned and looked at him. All of the disciples had fled in the face of the dangers that had been brought because of Jesus. Note what Christ says in Matt. 10:31 says...

Matt 10:32-33

9

32 "Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. **33** "But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.

What could make someone who had been with Jesus for nigh on to three years, had been a companion, a confidant, had seen his miracles, heard His message, been given power to perform his own, deny that they ever knew Him, to the point that they cursed and swore they didn't know Him?

Sometimes, our intent may be to do right. Our desire, to be what God wants us to be. But our efforts futile in the face of the opposition of Satan.

Paul talks about this concept in...

Rom 7:14-15

10

14 For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. **15** For that which I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.

We are flesh, and as such, susceptible to all the desires and yearnings of that flesh. We want to be able to enjoy all those things that the world of flesh offers. Those things call to our flesh Christ repeats the same thoughts in His statement to the disciples in the garden.

Mark 14:37-38

11

37 And He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? **38** "Keep watching and praying, that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak ."

Does it seem that sometimes all the desire in our hearts cannot prevent us from denying Jesus because our flesh is weak? Seriously, how many of us actually seek to sin? I believe that that is true of most people, they want to do what is right, but it's so hard not giving in to the things of the flesh. Isn't that what Paul is saying?

So, is Christ excusing weak flesh? Not at all. In...

Rom 12:1-2

12

1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

This idea of a living sacrifice is crucial to our coming to God through Christ. All too often we want to come to God on our terms and not His. Paul writes in...

1 Cor 9:26-27

13

26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27 but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

Paul's point is that it takes enormous effort to maintain control over our fleshly desires and lust, and it was just as difficult for him as it is for anyone. He says he disciplined his flesh daily so that he could keep it under control and not be lost.

Look at what Christ tells Pilate in...

John 18:35-36

14

35 Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You up to me; what have You done?" 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

The kingdom of Christ does not need to fight in this world because it is not part of this world. It has no possessions in this world that it needs to protect. The Christians that make up the Kingdom here on Earth, have nothing here to fight for, not even their physical lives. That is a hard point to understand. As man, we cling desperately to this life, and yet the lot of the faithful is not of this world, so death should hold no dread for us, but it does. Why is that? What is it about this world that holds such a sway over us? That's what Paul is talking about in the passage we looked at in Rom. when we are told to present ourselves as living sacrifices to the Lord. That means giving this world up and living for God.

In...

Jude 3

15

3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Jude defines for us what it means to give ourselves as a living sacrifice, it means to "Contend" for the faith? Paul speaks of this in...

2 Tim 4:6-8

16

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Paul is approaching the end of his life and knows it. The time of his departure is near and yet he takes solace in the fact that he has "fought the good fight, he has kept the faith". The servants of Christ, Christians, don't take up arms to protect the kingdom, but they do take up spiritual arms to fight the battle for their souls. They battle daily against Satan and his minions of **Lust of the Flesh**, **Lust of the Eye**, and the **Pride of Life**. In a sense, this is what Christ was talking about to His disciples when He said "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak", and it is most assuredly what Paul is talking about in Rom 7. Note the rest of the passage there..

Rom 7:15-20

17

16 But if I do the very thing I do not wish to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that it is good. 17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me,

but the doing of the good is not. **19** For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish. **20** But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

Therein is our battle...

18

"The Good Fight of Faith"

The man of God strives to control the desires that dwell within and to do good in the eyes of God. We fight daily to keep the demons within from getting out and ruling our lives, and a fight it is. Satan wants nothing more than to draw us away from God. He wants us to give in to our fleshly desires. He wants us to try and appease the desire for what we see. He wants us to allow our emotions, our hate, our anger, our fear to govern our actions and our words. Satan wants us. That's the battle we fight.

When that person does us wrong, is our reaction to do harm back? When someone speaks ill of us, do we justify our indignant response hurt by calling it righteous anger? When our lusts drive us to engage in things we shouldn't, do we excuse ourselves by saying, "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak"? When we are scared or unwilling to speak out for Christ, do we curse and swear we don't know him, and run away? Indeed, the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

The point here isn't whether or not we sin. We do. We fail to control our reactions. We justify treating people without love, because they hurt us with something they said or we are indignant over some other sort of a perceived injustice. We give in to our lusts because our flesh is weak. We run from telling others about Christ because we are scared, sometimes to the point of doing something we shouldn't. We sin. The point isn't whether or not we sin, the point is what we do after we sin. In...

2 Sam 12:1-4

19

1 Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said, "There were two men in one city, the one rich and the other poor. **2** "The rich man had a great many flocks and herds. **3** "But the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb Which he bought and nourished; And it grew up together with him and his children. It would eat of his bread and drink of his cup and lie in his bosom, And was like a daughter to him. **4** "Now a traveler came to the rich man, And he was unwilling to take from his own flock or his own herd, To prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him; Rather he took the poor man's ewe lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him."

This is Nathan's story to David, after David had an affair with Bathsheba, made her pregnant, tried to set up Uriah so that he think he was the father, and when that didn't work had him murdered. David was fighting the same battle that we do and he failed. But note what Saul is told concerning David...

1 Sam 13:14

20

14 But now your kingdom shall not endure. The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

? Some of what today is considered to be the worst of sins that anyone could commit. Adultery, murder, lies, things that are thought to be heinous in their nature, these are the things that David did, because he didn't control his fleshly desires. So, just what makes David a man after God's heart?

2 Sam 12:13

21

13 Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

It's not that he didn't sin, its that when he did he recognized it, acknowledged it, and repented.

Luke 22:60-62

22

60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, a cock crowed. **61** And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a cock crows today, you will deny Me three times." **62** And he went out and wept bitterly.

Peter allowed his fear to overcome his love for the Lord and his faith in Christ. His fear caused him to deny the Lord and to run away. It was then that the Lord looked at him. Peter went out and wept bitterly.

Brethren, we sin. How do we react to our sin? That is the question.

23

Christ IS Looking at Us?

The real question is...

24

What is He Seeing?