

Easy Jesus



We rely heavily on our senses but in many ways today's culture has confused the purposes for which these senses were created. Today cinema is created on a daily basis and while, because of the volume it is often difficult to find something that is appealing, the real problem is finding something that is elevating or inspirational. How did we get here?

Well it turns out that it was a long journey and it started in 1889 in Thomas Edison's laboratory but he only developed the concept of cinematography, others conceived the content of those celebrated celluloids and throughout the decades the standards evolved as to what could appear on that "Silver Screen".

I will not discuss the direction that evolution took or benefits the media has provided us with but rather repeat what Jesus said in (Matthew 6:22-23) *"The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!"* According to Ravi Zacharias the modern culture today, "Reads with their eyes and thinks with their feelings". If his premise is true, then every Christian needs to monitor that which goes into the eyes to maintain their "Spiritual Health" and keep the body full of light. Not as easily done as said, evolution is always a series of small steps that when made individually don't seem so bad but considered cumulatively they can be devastating to soul and body.

Eyes are not exclusively for letting light into the body or for visual access to events of the world. Jesus pointed that out when He healed the blind man (John 9). He said that neither his sins nor the sins of his parents contributed to his blindness but rather that through him the miracles of God could be manifested. When that marvelous occurrence happened the then clergy questioned whether the man was really blind and Jesus' credentials to be able to accomplish such a feat. When the incident was over Jesus reminded those in attendance that visual acuity may not mean your sighted in every aspect any more than the lack of it means your unseeing. His exact words were, *"For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."* and He followed up with, *"If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."*

The Canaanite woman displayed that kind of vision when Jesus came into Tyre & Sidon (Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30). She declared that her daughter was "Demon-Possessed", now demon possession could have taken many forms but let's just say that her daughter was unable to run and play with all the other children and that concerned her maybe to the extent of distress and mental and physical pain and suffering. In any case the suffering was great enough to cause her to disregard the fact that she was a woman in a man's world and that she was a hated foreigner in the eyes of the Jews. Her vision was displayed when she announced to Jesus that "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table". That displayed great humility and supreme penitence, and Jesus responded that way by declaring her of great faith and healing her daughter.

We go to church on Sunday to interact with Jesus Hopefully!! But Jesus can show up at almost any time, you're walking down aisle 6 of the grocery store, you turn into aisle 7 and there He is. You're working on a project, you need to discuss it with a coworker and there He is in the hall. You're going to the next class and when you turn the corner in the hall, He's standing there. What's He doing there? In John chapter 4 we find out. John said that Jesus "Had" to go through Samaria, that's not quite accurate since

Jews would go out of their way before going into Samaria. Jesus was on a mission that found Him at Jacob's well at noon! No one goes to the well in the heat of the day and like as not this woman was counting on that, but woops there's Jesus.

This woman is the epitome of the blindness that Jesus described earlier. Even in this state of blindness, Jesus appeals to her for some water. She plays the "Discrimination" card first but Jesus will have none of that and offers His "Living Water", she counters with the "Lack of Resources" card, He then explains that drinking His water will prevent her from ever being thirsty again. This is when it all breaks down. He wants her to acknowledge the state she is presently in. She says, "Oh yea you're a prophet, let's talk religion".

It wasn't until Jesus revealed who He really was that the clouds began to clear, and her spiritual vision returned but for her she was prepared to act on that insight and zealously returned to her village to spread the news of Jesus' presence even though after living with six men she may have been the most disgraced and shamed person in the village. Never the less she was able to convince those she shared her message with to return to the well and see this guy. Jesus spent three days there and many of the people in that village were brought to salvation.

What happened in each of these instances? Peoples vision improved, not their visual acuity but their perception of Jesus, who He is, what He is and what they needed to do to access the blessings that He provides. It isn't that much different today than it was then, you won't come face to face with Him but you'll know He's there and accessing His blessings requires "Humility", "Repentance" and "Being Prepared to Act on His Message". When you seek to do these things, you won't have to wait until you die to enter Eternity.