

HOW YOU SEE WHAT YOU SEE

- A. Introduction: We have been talking about magnifying God. Ps 34:3; 35:27; 40:16; 69:30; 70:4
1. When we magnify God we don't make Him bigger than He is. We make Him bigger in our eyes. We get a more accurate picture of Him from His word, and then live our lives in the light of who and what He really is.
 2. God is small to us, God needs to be magnified in our eyes, because we don't see reality as it is. Reality is actual existence of the way things really are.
 - a. Reality is God. God is all in all. God is infinite, eternal, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent. God is perfectly present everywhere at once loving and reigning.
 - b. We are talking about magnifying God so we can see Him or see reality as it truly is -- so we can learn to see God everywhere, loving and reigning.
 3. How you see what you see has a great deal to do with whether God is small or God is magnified in your eyes. In this lesson we want to deal with how you see what you see.
- B. One reason God seems small to us is because we don't know how to look at what we can see, we don't know how to look past what we can see, and we don't know how to look through what we can see.
1. There is a spiritual, invisible reality behind the material, physical world. All that we see is an expression of Invisible Spirit, God. I Tim 1:17; John 4:24; Heb 11:3
 - a. The invisible created the visible, will out last the visible, and can change the visible. We have to learn to live our lives in the light of what we cannot see. II Cor 4:18
 1. Meanwhile I look not to things seen, but to things unseen. (Conyebear)
 2. Since we consider and look not to the things that are seen but to things that are unseen. (Amp)
 - b. If we can learn to do this, according to II Cor 4:17, it will lighten the load of life.
 1. Paul was able to call his many hardships and difficulties momentary and light because he could look past them to reality as it truly is. God, perfectly present, loving and reigning.
 2. He was able to see everything physical as temporary and subject to change.
 2. Mark 4:35-41--When Jesus looked at the storm He could see through the danger, past the danger, to the all powerful, loving God, His Father, behind the storm (not causing it, but reigning in and over it).
 - a. He saw God reigning. His consciousness or awareness of reality was that God is reigning and it enabled Him to demonstrate the reign of God by stopping the storm. However, the disciples saw only a storm that could kill them. It's not what you see. It's how you see what you see.
 - b. When Jesus stilled the storm, His disciples asked: What manner of man is this? The answer to that question is: The kind of man God intended all men to be.
 1. Jesus lived as a man in dependence on God as an example to us of what sons of God are supposed to look like, of how sons of God are supposed to live.
 2. God made men in His image and likeness. Jesus showed us what that looks like. When Jesus stilled the storm He exercised the dominion all men were created to exercise. Gen 1:26
 - c. Jesus' perception of reality was: My Father is greater than all. My Father is with Me. My Father loves me. I am here to do the works of My Father by the power of the Father in Me. The Father in Me does the works.
 1. Jesus looked past what He could see to God loving and reigning and He demonstrated that love and that reign.
 2. We want to develop that same consciousness of reality Jesus had so we can walk even as Jesus walked. We want to see God as He truly is and ourselves as we truly are in relation to Him. I John 2:6

- C. Let's look at an example from the Old Testament of the difference your perception of reality can make, an example of the fact that it's not what you see, it's how you see what you see that makes the difference.
1. When the children of Israel reached the edge of the promised land, they sent twelve spies in first to check out the land. Num 13
 - a. The spies spent forty days in the land. They traveled together so they all saw the same thing.
 1. They all saw that it was a land of plenty, flowing with milk and honey.
 2. They all saw that there were walled cities (they had not seen walled cities in Goshen), war-like tribes, and giants (men much bigger than them).
 - b. Yet, when the spies returned to the children of Israel to give their report on the land, there were two very different assessments of the land -- two very different views of reality.
 1. v31-33--Ten of the spies said: We look like grasshoppers compared to those people. They are stronger than us. We can't go in. The people of Israel accepted and acted on that report.
 2. v30--Two of the spies, Caleb and Joshua, said we are well able to take the land. Moses was the only one who accepted their report.
 2. What was the difference between these two groups of spies and their reports? It wasn't what they saw that produced the two different views of reality because they all saw the same thing. It was how they saw what they saw.
 - a. Num 14:23 says the two spies, Caleb and Joshua, had a different spirit.
 1. But because my servant Caleb has a different attitude and has whole heartedly followed me. (Berkeley)
 2. My servant Caleb was of another mind; he took my part and I will allow him to enter than land which he surveyed. (Knox)
 - b. What did Caleb and Joshua do? They looked not at things which are seen but at things which are not see. They looked past what they could see to what they couldn't see.
 3. What did Joshua and Caleb see? They saw God loving and reigning.
 - a. Num 13:30--Caleb said that they were well able to overcome the people in the land.
 - b. v31--According to sight, the people of the land, the Canaanites, were stronger than Israel.
 1. But, Israel's strength was God. Just two years earlier they had all stood on the deliverance side of the Red Sea singing: God is my strength and He has become my salvation. Ex 15:2
 2. If your strength is God, who or what can be more powerful than you?
 4. Num 14:8,9--Both Joshua and Caleb spoke to the people. This is how Joshua and Caleb saw the situation.
 - a. v8--It is a wonderful country ahead, and the Lord loves us. He will bring us safely into the land and give it to you (Living).
 1. They understood that God brought Israel out of Egypt and planned to bring them into the land because He loved them. Deut 7:8; Deut 4:37; 10:15
 2. Awareness of God's love for them gave Joshua and Caleb confidence in the face of obstacles and enemies.
 3. Ps 18:19--He set me free in the open, and rescued me, because He loves me (NAB). David had that same revelation, that same perception of reality. He knew God was with him. He knew God loved him.
 - b. Joshua and Caleb not only knew God loved them, they knew God was with them.
 1. God's presence is salvation. Ps 42:5; Ex 15:2--At the Red Sea God became their salvation.
 2. Joshua and Caleb said: Their defense is departed from them. Why? There is no power that can stand against all power. Their perception of reality, the way they saw what they saw,

made Joshua and Caleb overcomers in this situation.

- c. The way things look isn't necessarily the way things are. If your assessment of a situation is based on a misperception of reality, you'll draw wrong conclusions.
 - 1. Num 13:33--The ten spies said: We look like grasshoppers to the people of the land. These people think we'll be as easy to deal with as a little grass. But, that was not accurate.
 - 2. Josh 2:8-11--The people of the land of Canaan were afraid of Israel because of the mighty deliverance God had given them in Egypt.
- 5. We made several key points in the last lesson which bear repeating at this point.
 - a. Sin altered man's perception of reality. God has been working since the fall of man to progressively reveal Himself to man as He truly is.
 - b. As we see this revelation unfolding in the Old Testament, we have to understand that God was revealing both His God's allness (His transcendence) and His nearness (His immanence) to men.
 - 1. Ex 3:14--At the beginning of Israel's deliverance from bondage in Egypt, when God called Moses, He revealed Himself to Israel as I am that I am (Omni-all).
 - 2. Ex 13:21--But on their journey, God manifested as a pillar of cloud and fire as a revelation to them of His nearness.
 - c. Caleb and Joshua had a revelation of the allness and the nearness of God. And, they were able to look through what they could see (walled cities, warlike tribes, and giants) to what they couldn't see -- the all powerful God perfectly present, loving and reigning.
 - 1. If the ten spies could have look through what they could see to God it would have removed fear and made them able to conquer as well.
 - 2. It wasn't what they saw. It's how they saw what they saw. It was their wrong perception of reality. They based their conclusions only on what they could see, only on the physical circumstances and information.
- D. Let's look at another example of the how you see what you see can affect you and your situation.
 - 1. Gen 28:10-22--Jacob had a dream in which the Lord appeared to him and restated the promises made to Abraham and Isaac. God made wonderful promises to Jacob.
 - a. v16--Jacob awoke and said: God was here and I knew it not. Was not conscious of it (Bas); Recognized it not (Spurrell). That's where many of us are. God is with us and we don't know it.
 - b. v17--Jacob concluded that this place must be the house of God and the gateway to heaven.
 - a. But, God is everywhere present at once. Through this dream God was revealing His nearness to Jacob.
 - b. Shaken, he said: How awesome is this place (Torah).
 - 2. But, Jacob's awareness of the perfect presence of God has to be developed further. Gen 42
 - a. Jacob had lost his son Joseph. In a time of famine, he sent ten of his eleven remaining sons to Egypt to buy corn. They returned with the corn, but had to leave Simeon behind and the Egyptian ruler has demanded that they bring the remaining son, Benjamin, to him as well.
 - b. v36--Jacob's response to all of this was: Everything is against me. According to sight it was against him, but behind the scenes, everything was going right.
 - 1. The Egyptian leader was none other than Joseph, with whom Jacob was about to be reunited, God was going to bring him and his family to a place (Egypt) where the family would have food for the famine and would have an environment to grow from seventy-five people to several million -- enough people to settle Canaan.
 - 2. Jacob was robbed of the peace of mind that would have come from being able to look through what he could see to what he couldn't see -- God perfectly present, loving and reigning.

3. Gen 46:1-4--God spoke to Jacob, revealed himself to Jacob again. God is developing Jacob's consciousness or awareness of reality.
 - a. I am God. God revealed Himself to Jacob as El Shaddai, all-sufficient. I am that God who pours out blessings, who gives them richly, abundantly, continually. That is a revelation of God's allness (transcendence)
 - b. God said to Jacob: I'll go down with you to Egypt and bring you up again. God doesn't come and go. He is everywhere at once. God is revealing His nearness (immanence) to Jacob -- I am with you.
 4. Gen 48:15,16--At the end of his life Jacob could look back and see that God had been with him and cared for him throughout his life.
 - a. But he didn't always have the peace of mind that comes from that knowledge. Why? Because he didn't always see past what he could see to what he couldn't see.
 - b. Gen 48:21--His consciousness of reality grew. His final words to his family were of the allness and nearness of God.
- E. Conclusion: The determining factor for victory in our lives, the determining factor for peace of mind in our lives, is not what we see but how we see what we see -- learning to see through our circumstances to reality as it truly is -- God, perfectly present, loving and reigning.
1. Ps 23:6--David said goodness and mercy followed him all the days of his life.
 - a. Why was goodness and mercy following him? Shouldn't it be right there with him when he needs it? It was. He just couldn't see it.
 - b. If we can learn to see reality as it truly is we can learn to see past what we see to goodness and mercy with us, perfectly present with us, in the midst of our troubles.
 2. What of man was Jesus? One who saw reality as it truly is: God perfectly present, loving and reigning.
 - a. What manner of men are we supposed to be? Like Jesus!
 - b. Reality is: I exist in the love of God. Right now is the day of salvation because His presence is salvation. Right now, I am in the loving care of the all powerful God who is my Father -- regardless of what it looks like, regardless of what is happening.