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Turning a Blind Eye

“But if your eye is bad [evil], your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!” (Matthew 6:23)

Our eye is our focus (center of interest or activity). We fix our eyes on what we treasure. Jesus says, “*where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*” (Matthew 6:21). To not see the light is to be in darkness. Scripture describes this as blindness—the consequence of not living in obedience to God: “*The LORD will smite you with madness and with blindness and with bewilderment of heart; and you will grope at noon, as the blind man gropes in darkness, and you will not prosper in your ways; but you shall only be oppressed and robbed continually, with none to save you*” (Deuteronomy 28:28-29).

Darkness makes everything a hazard to us. At night, your safe and comfy home is instantly turned into a homicidal monster. How many of us have stubbed our toes, banged our head, or fallen down the stairs in the dark? Yet for us, this is supposed to be the safest place on the planet! This is life without God. Many people stay put in darkness for fear, because they know that if they get up and try to move in the dark, they could fall off a cliff. Some people, however, claim they know how to find their way in the dark, even though in truth they cannot see. This is what Jesus is referring to when He says darkness is very great if the “light” by which you claim to see is actually still darkness. The world says it can see in its “light,” but it cannot, for it is dazzling itself in Satan’s false light (2 Corinthians 11:14), which, like an Anglerfish, only lures to death.

Jesus told the Pharisees that He came into the world “*so that those who do not see may*

see, and that those who see may become blind.’ Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, ‘*We are not blind too, are we?*’ Jesus said to them, ‘*If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, “We see,” your sin remains*’” (John 9:39-41). Jesus is saying that if you claim to see by any light other than Him, you are in a far worse state than those who know they are in darkness and are waiting for the light to appear. This is the state of the world—they pinch their eyes closed in the bright light of noon so they won’t see the danger of their sin. They would rather turn “a blind eye” to God’s Light (knowledge of Jesus) and grope forward like blind men, because they don’t like what they see about themselves: their grim accountability to God. They then keep others in the dark with them by saying, “Follow us, we see the way out of here.” Yet, God has said, “*Cursed is he who misleads a blind person on the road*” (Deuteronomy 27:18).

God helps those who recognize they stand in the darkness of their sin and acknowledge their blindness, for “*the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; The Lord raises up those who are bowed down*” (Psalm 146:8a). “*He has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*” (1 Peter 2:9), for He “*abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel*” (2 Timothy 1:10). We must keep our eyes healthy and sincere by focusing them on the Gospel, for “*the eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear [healthy or sincere], your whole body will be full of light*” (Matthew 6:22). We are filled with Light when we are “*fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God*” (Hebrews 12:2). Praise the Lord! Amen.

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