

Do You “See” Yourself Like...

As we saw this morning (pun intended; in our lesson “Seeing Ourselves as God Does”), *self-evaluatiuon* is inseparably linked to *self-image*. Obviously, we cannot properly evaluate ourselves without a *clear, undistorted, and God-influenced* view of our selves, cf. Matt.6:22; cp.Matt.7:3-5.

I’d like us to consider some examples of *self-image / self-evaluation* problems this evening that will hopefully aid our *perspectives* of ourselves.

Do You “See” Yourself Like...

1. Judas? Matt.27:1-5

He was chosen as one of *the twelve*, cf. Matt.10:4; and even entrusted with special responsibility, John 13:29.

But he allowed Satan to *enter his heart*, cf. Luke 22:3-4 and he betrayed the Lord.

Afterwards, when he “*saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse,*” Matt.27:3. *Remorse* is translated from the Greek term *metamelomai- to care afterwards*; this is in contrast to true *repentance*, which is *metanoia- change, reversal, reformation*, Matt.3:2.

Perhaps Judas, then, saw himself as *unforgiveable* or *unredeemable*; but such is “whittlin’ on God’s end of the stick”! It not only *questions* but *limits* God’s power!

So he quit...which may have been quicker and easier than *repenting*, but has far worse eternal consequences- not because he took his own life, but because he wouldn’t repent!, cf. 2Cor.7:10b.

Do you see yourself like Judas? Unredeemable? Unforgivable? Well you’re wrong, 1John 1:9!

2. Peter? Matt.26:31-35?

Impetuous Peter! Gotta love ‘em, right? Of course, but you sure don’t have emulate him in these regards.

Peter saw himself as spiritually “bullet-proof,” but he was wrong, and so are we if that’s how we “see” ourselves, cf. 1Cor.10:12.

How *low* do you think he felt, and how did he then “see” himself, when Jesus “*turned and looked at Peter*” in Luke 22:61 after that third, *cursing* and *swearing* (Matt.26:74) denial?

Awful! But he knew what he was talking about when he wrote 1Pet.5:5-7.

Peter felt just as bad, I’m convinced, as did Judas, cf.Matt.26:75; and probably remembered and feared Jesus words of Matt.10:33 also.

But Peter didn’t quit, and likely also remembered the Lord’s encouragement of John 21:15-19; and Luke 22:32. His *sorrow* was *godly* rather than *worldly*, 2Cor.7:10a.

Do you “see” yourself like Peter? Spiritually bullet-proof? Or *humbly repentant* and thus *motivated* to do better?

3. Paul? 1Tim.1:15; 1Cor.15:9

Somewhat like Paul perhaps, David, after his sin with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah her husband, thought to have become so sinful, he surely must have been "*brought forth in iniquity,*" cf. Psa.51:5 (he didn't mean it literally, cf. Ezk.18:20).

So, do you ever feel like David, or Paul? That surely you must be the worst sinner on the planet, or perhaps even in its history? Or that you don't *deserve to be called "a Christian"* (as Paul felt about "*apostle*")? Hint: you don't, and neither does anyone else that has ever or will ever wear that name!

But David and Paul were both *forgiven* by God's *mercy* and *grace*, cf. 1Tim.1:16, and so can you be also, cf. 1Cor.6:9-11.

Note Paul's *new attitude* (acquired via *God's grace* and *his own faith*) in Phil.3:7-16.

Do you "see" yourself like Paul did? The *worst of the worse*? Then do what he did and allow that to motivate you to serve Him all the more! But you are going to have to stop living in the past, and *press on!*

4. Or, as Jesus "saw" Nathaniel? John 1:45-51

Nathanael is different- as a man, yes, but I mean from the others we have thus far considered. This is the only passage that really mentions him in the NT (aside from him being listed in John 21:2); but more specifically in this way- Nathanael doesn't say exactly how he saw himself. But I do know how Jesus saw him, and that indicates that Nathanael, at a minimum, saw himself *clearly* and without *the blinders* (or *log!*) of *guile* or *hypocrisy*, v.47!

Conclusion:

And so I ask again (as previously), "How do you 'see' yourself?"

Like Judas, *unforgivable* and *unredeemable*? You're wrong.

Like Peter, *spiritually "bullet-proof"*? You're wrong.

Like Paul, *foremost of all sinners*? Or, *by God's grace forgiven* and *ready to forget what lies behind* and *press on*?

Or like Nathanael, *clearly* and *without guile* or *hypocrisy*?