

**Seeing Through God's Eyes**  
**~Ourselves and Others~**  
**Sermon Outline**  
**January 28, 2018**

Text – **Luke 2:25-32**

Reading Schedule:

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1/28</b>	<b>Proverbs Ch. 21; Luke 2: 1-21</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>1/29</b>	<b>Proverbs Ch. 22; Luke 2: 22-35</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1/30</b>	<b>Proverbs Ch. 23; Luke 2: 36-52</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>1/31</b>	<b>Proverbs Ch. 24; Psalm 139: 1-24</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>2/1</b>	<b>Proverbs Ch. 25; Genesis 45: 1-28</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>2/2</b>	<b>Proverbs Ch. 26; Genesis 46: 1-34</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>2/3</b>	<b>Proverbs Ch. 27; Genesis 50: 1-26</b>

**I AM A SPIRIT WHO HAS A SOUL**  
**AND I LIVE IN A BODY!**

**I AM NOT A SOUL**

**I AM A SPIRIT**

**I AM NOT A BODY**

**I AM A SPIRIT**

# **I AM A SPIRIT WHO HAS A SOUL** **AND I LIVE IN A BODY!**

**Luke 2:28-35** – *Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:*

<sup>29</sup> *“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss<sup>[d]</sup> your servant in peace.*

<sup>30</sup> *For my eyes have seen your salvation,*

<sup>31</sup> *which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:*

<sup>32</sup> *a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.”*

<sup>33</sup> *The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.<sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against,<sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”*

## **TOOLS NOT RULES!**

The story of Simeon expresses to us how God works in the life of every human being. God speaks God’s promise for every life into every life. (You need to understand; you are living in that promise right now!) In Simeon’s case the promise of God was “*that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.*” Simeon was living in God’s promise every second he was alive. We can miss the fact that we’re living in God’s promise for our lives because we get blinded by circumstances, or we don’t recognize God’s promise, or remain in God’s process - in short, we don’t see ourselves and others the through God’s eyes.

## **TOOLS NOT RULES!**

The tool that God is placing in our hands is that of seeing ourselves and others the way God sees us.

## **SEEING THROUGH GOD’S EYES!**

### **SEE OTHERS THROUGH GOD’S EYES!**

#### **1. God Loves Me!**

**a. Principle #1 – The circumstances of your life do not matter, God’s plan extends beyond your background and your current situation into the very mind of God.**

i. God is providing, protecting, directing, and supporting, loving, forgiving, and lifting you in whatever circumstances you’re in.

**b. Psalm 139: 13-16** tells us, “Here’s what God sees:

1. v. 13 – I created you! (You belong to me!)

2. v. 14 – You are my wonderful work! (My Masterpiece!)

3. v. 15 – I knew everything about you before you were born. (Foreknowledge!)

4. v. 16 – You were conceived first in My mind before you were conceived in the womb. (Double Conception!)

**2. Luke 2: 26-27a – *It had been revealed to [Simeon] by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts.***

**a. Principle#2 – Process is God’s way of getting you ready for when you “GET THERE!”**

**b.** God reveals God’s Promise for your life by speaking the Promise into your life.

**c.** When the Promise of God is revealed by the Word of God in the spirit of God's person, the anointing of God is available for its fulfillment!

- d. When the Word of God is preached, miracles of salvation, healings, deliverance, signs and wonders accompany the Word! **EXPECT THAT!**

**3. Luke 2: 28b-32** – *Simeon **took him in his arms and praised God, saying:** <sup>29</sup> **“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,** <sup>(X)</sup>  
*you may now dismiss<sup>[d]</sup> your servant in peace.* <sup>(Y)</sup>  
<sup>30</sup> *For my eyes have seen your salvation,* <sup>(Z)</sup>  
<sup>31</sup> *which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:*  
<sup>32</sup> *a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.”*<sup>(C)</sup>*

**a. Principle #3 – The fulfilling of God’s promise for your life is a part of God’s process in someone else’s life!**

1. When we see people who seem to be confused or misguided or distracted or discouraged or unable to navigate the process required to fulfill God’s promise for their lives, don’t sit on the side line and criticize; don’t discourage their efforts; don’t project your failures on their lives; don’t throw shade their light;
2. Instead, see them through God’s eyes! **HELP THEM!**

**4. Luke 2: 33** – *The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.*

- a. The fulfillment of God’s promise in Simeon’s life was a part of God’s process in Mary and Joseph’s lives.

**b. Principle #4 – The fulfilling of God’s promise for someone else’s life can be a part of God’s process in your life!**

1. We are all the beneficiaries or recipients of blessings resulting from the fulfillment of God’s promise in the life of others.

2. Rev. Dr. Walter Johnson, in fulfillment of the promise on his life, sent Mrs. Moody and me to see

c. **Genesis 45: 4-11a** – <sup>4</sup> *Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! <sup>5</sup> And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. <sup>6</sup> For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. <sup>7</sup> But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. <sup>[a]</sup> <sup>8</sup> “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there,*

1. We are telling the story from the point of view of the brothers of Joseph to gain understanding of how we are to respond to the fulfilling of God's Promise in the life of someone else, now becoming a part of God's Process in our lives.

2. Joseph is a type or foretelling of the coming Savior, Jesus Christ. (explain)

- i. We will see in the review of this story, the gospel message being played out in the lives of Joseph’s brother.
- ii. God uses others to bring to reality the gospel (Good News) of God’s grace and love in our lives.

## **SOMEONE ELSE'S PROMISE IN OUR PROCESS!**

### **1. GOD REVEALS YOUR BENEFACTOR**

- a. **Genesis 45: 3a** – *Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brother were... terrified...*
- b. God will give you a name, point you in someone's direction, send somebody your way, or allow you to meet someone that God has ordained to be a part of your process.
- c. Do not be afraid of accessing what the person has, because they are living out what God called them to do.
  1. You are not imposing on them.
  2. You are participating in the fulfilling of God's promise in their life, while they are a part of your process.
  3. Tell how God had me encounter four persons we wanted to discuss the Restoration with.
    - i. The first was revealed at an event at Quinn Chapel.
    - ii. The second came asked to sit next to me at the City of Chicago M.L. King breakfast.
    - iii. The third came as asked if she could sit in front of me at a University of Chicago Awards Ceremony.
    - iv. The fourth made a \$1,000 donation to the Restoration and sent us a note letting us know she had been out of the country for the holidays and how happy she was to support our work.
    - v. See your situation through God's eyes.
      1. Nothing just happens!
      2. Don't take events for granted or as happen stance.
      3. If you've been praying for and believing for the fulfillment of God's promise, then

believe it when God begins to reveal people to assist in your process!

#### 4. SOMEBODY GIVE GOD PRAISE!

## 2. GOD IS WORKING ON YOUR BEHALF EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN'T SEE IT!

- a. **Genesis 45: 4-7** – *Then Joseph said ..., “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! <sup>5</sup> ... do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that **God sent me ahead of you.** <sup>6</sup> ... there has been famine in the land...<sup>7</sup> But **God sent me ahead of you** to ... save your lives by a great deliverance.*
- b. We often can’t see God working because God is ahead of us in the process.
- c. God knows all from “beginning to end”; from “here to there”!
  1. So follow God’s directions!
  2. Just show up!
- d. God is ahead of you and God has “worked that thing out and thought that thing through” for you.
- e. *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*
- f. Somebody give God praise!

## 3. GOD MAKES PROVISION FOR GOD’S VISION!

- a. **Genesis 45: 10-11a; 21b-23** – *You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come.*  
*<sup>21b</sup> Joseph gave them carts... and he also gave them provisions for their journey. <sup>22</sup> To each of them he gave new clothing, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels<sup>[b]</sup> of silver and five sets of clothes. <sup>23</sup> And this is what he sent to his father: ten donkeys loaded with the*

*best things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and other provisions for his journey.*

- b. It's by God's grace, not our goodness, provision is made.
  - 1. Remember, you didn't do anything for it.
  - 2. Your favor is a part of God's Process for the fulfillment of God's promise.
    - i. Trust God to move forward before you have everything
    - ii. God makes provision for God's vision.
    - iii. Because, **Money Follows Mission!**
      - 1. Where will we get the money to do ministry to young women in this community? **Money Follows Mission!**
      - 2. Where will the resources come from needed to guide youth through the maze of difficulties they're facing today? **Money Follows Mission!**
      - 3. How will we get the equipment and personnel move our congregation into the digital and virtual worlds people are operating in today? **Money Follows Mission!**
- 3. If you happen to be Benjamin and experience uncommon favor, walk in it!
  - i. Benjamin was the youngest and smallest and received the most.
  - ii. The first king of Israel was of the tribe of Benjamin, the youngest of the sons and the smallest of the tribes of Israel.

**c. INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

**d. Ephesians 2: 8-10** – *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can*

*boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

1. He showed us how to see others through God's eyes.
  2. Yes, he saw and young man, a teen-aged mother, a poor couple from the sticks with a little baby. But he saw them through God's eyes
  3. Come "alongside" them to show them the way!
  4. Make yourself available to support them when they need it.
- a. It's the gospel – the good news lived through us when we see others through God's eyes.
1. **Romans 5: 6-8** – <sup>6</sup> *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

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**Five-fold Mission of the Church**

1. **MAGNIFY** – We express our love for God through praise and by obeying His Commands.
2. **MISSION** – We seize every opportunity to demonstrate Christ by witnessing to others by word and deed.
3. **MEMBERSHIP** – We encourage all to belong to God's eternal family through fellowship with Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church.
4. **MATURITY** – We study to grow more Christ-like in our thoughts, words, and deeds.
5. **MINISTRY** – We demonstrate God's love by meeting the needs and healing the hurts of others.