

Let Your Eyes Affect Your Heart

Speak The Language: A Resource by Jessalyn Warder

How do you feel when you see one of those dog adoption commercials on TV? Those neglected dogs and abused kittens really get to you with that sappy music in the background and the black and white pictures; they jab you right in the feels. The organization that creates those commercials has a purpose in mind. They know that those pictures and that emotional music will catch your heart and hopefully persuade you to give money to get those animals healthy. Their goal is to get your eyes to affect your heart.

Read Luke 10:25-37.

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

This is crazy! Can you believe that a religious leader (possibly a priest) and a Levite (possibly a worship leader) just walked past that guy in a ditch like he was road kill? The people who you think would be most likely to stop and help this beaten up guy lying in a ditch just walked on by. For them, helping this man lying in a ditch would require the religious leader and the Levite to get their hands dirty, converse with someone outside their social circle/status, to be put into an awkward situation, to be pushed out of their comfort zone, and it would cost them money and time and maybe even their reputation. These two men were considered holy and helping this dying man lying in a ditch was not a part of their job description. Helping those in need was someone else's job.

But then a Samaritan comes walking down the road. The Samaritan people came from intermarriage between Israelites (God's chosen people) and the Assyrians. They were known as a half-breed people and considered traitors or descendants of traitors. Despite what was expected of him, the Good Samaritan saw the beaten up man lying in a ditch, half dead, and he took pity on him. His heart broke for this man and he stopped what he had on his agenda for the day to help him. He either used his own supplies to bandage him up or went out to get them and came back. He gave the man a ride while he himself had to walk on foot the rest of the way to the inn. And who knows how long of a journey that was. He again paid for the man to have a place to heal and rest. The Samaritan loved his neighbor as himself. He let his eyes affect his

heart and took action.

How many dog commercial people or beaten up, lying in a ditch people do we see every day and forsake the opportunity to serve and love them well for the sake of the Gospel? Because God sees them and His heart is breaking. Is our heart breaking? Are we letting who or what we see break our hearts? Are we looking with our eyes and with God's eyes to see the broken and hurting people around us who need Jesus?

Our hearts cannot just stop at being annoyed, angered, disappointed, frustrated, and disgusted. Our hearts must break because God is not being honored, because glory is not being given to Him. Our hearts should break because God's heart breaks. And our heartbreak should lead to godly action. We need to be praying, and we need to be reaching out.

In Matthew 9:37, Jesus is speaking and he says...

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

There are students in your classes, dorms and apartment buildings, in the cafeteria and at the gym, at your job and maybe in your family who are ready to receive the Gospel! And what are we doing about it? The Bible commentary for this verse says "They can only be saved if someone (that someone is me, you and us) presents the good news of forgiveness and new life through Jesus Christ." In this season of life, Fairmont State is our harvest field and we are the workers being sent out. Whether you are a life group leader or not, if you have surrendered your life to Jesus, you are a worker in God's harvest field! We need to let our eyes affect our hearts.

Back to the Parable of the Good Samaritan...

After telling the expert of the law the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus asked him:

36 *"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"*

37 *The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."*

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Helping the man lying half dead in a ditch was probably an interruption in the Good Samaritan's day. He had to spend his own money, he had to give up his time and energy and it will be the same for us. When we let our eyes affect our hearts, we will be moved by the Holy Spirit to take action. And that means giving of our time, our energy and maybe money. Jesus is calling us to love our neighbors as ourselves. He says, "Go and do likewise."

Let your eyes affect your heart.

Discussion Questions:

1. In the Bible, what ways do we see Jesus let His eyes affect His heart?
2. How should you be letting your eyes affect your heart? Who around you is broken and needs you to share Jesus with them?
3. What godly action should you take?
4. Pray for God to give you His eyes for the people around you.