

SEEING CLEARLY

This week, I saw a video of a toddler named Logan who received his first pair of glasses. As they begin to put them on his face, he persists, trying to remove the foreign object. However, when he steals a glance through the lenses, his face reflects shock and then pure joy. He can see his mom clearly for the first time, and he grins from ear to ear.

As the world's hustle and bustle momentarily slows down, and as people begin to utter a name they've either forgotten or only vaguely remember, it presents a golden opportunity to re-experience and help others have a Logan-like experience. When Jesus arrived (Luke 19:10, Luke 4:16-20), he had a mission. And when God's plan, the Gospel, came into view, those who saw it reacted just like Logan- With pure joy! Simeon, the servant, waited patiently to see. And when he did, he blessed God.

Luke 2

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

*29 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;*

30 for my eyes have seen your salvation

31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

*32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."*

The apostle John confessed that he had seen. Looking back through the story, we know it was a slow process. But, once he saw clearly, there was joy. Interestingly enough, that joy was only complete once he shared it with others (1 John 1:1-4).

The life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. (v. 2-3)

Sometimes, our vision becomes blurry, and with life's chaos and priorities, we lose focus. I feel like I need to make the same request as Bartimaeus; "Rabbi, let me recover my sight" (Mark 10:51-52). Likewise, we must be reminded to pause and see the Lord's salvation in Jesus Christ, experience the joy fully, and share it with others.

Immanuel.

Shalom,
Ryan