

Learning to See like Jesus

6-DAY DEVOTIONAL

Be a Good Neighbor

Day 1 – Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:7

Every day, we observe people and make judgments about them. We notice their clothing, appearance, behavior, personality, circumstances, and even the way they interact with us. Sometimes those observations become assumptions that shape how we treat them. Jesus calls us to something different. He does not see people merely according to their outward appearance or social standing. He sees the heart. To become a good neighbor, we must learn to look beyond the surface and see people as God sees them. Who is someone you have been tempted to judge based primarily on what you see on the outside?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, forgive me for the times I have judged people by their appearance, circumstances, or behavior. Teach me to see beyond the surface and to recognize the worth and dignity of every person You have created. Help me see people through Your eyes. Amen.

Day 2 – Remember Your Need for Jesus

Scripture: Matthew 5:3, 6

The sinful woman who approached Jesus understood something the Pharisee did not: she desperately needed Him. Her awareness of her brokenness produced a deep love for Christ. We can easily begin to believe that because we attend church, pray, read Scripture, or have our lives relatively together, we need Jesus less than someone whose life is visibly falling apart. But Scripture reminds us that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” The first step toward seeing others like Jesus is remembering how desperately we need Jesus ourselves. What circumstances or attitudes tend to make you forget your own need for Christ?

Prayer: Jesus, remind me today that I need You. Keep me from pride and self-righteousness. Help me recognize my own spiritual poverty so that I can extend grace and compassion to others who are struggling. Amen.

Day 3 – Stop Seeing Through the Eyes of the World

Scripture: James 2:1

James confronted an attitude that had entered the early church: people were being evaluated according to worldly standards. Wealth, appearance, status, and social position influenced how people were treated. It is easy for us to do the same thing. We may naturally gravitate toward people who look like us, think like us, have similar interests, or seem to have something to offer us. But the kingdom of God calls us to reject favoritism. Jesus did not reserve His love for the people society considered successful, respectable, or important. He intentionally cared for the poor, sick, marginalized, and those whom others considered unworthy. Are there certain kinds of people you naturally value more—or avoid—because of worldly standards?

Prayer: Father, expose the places where I have allowed worldly standards to shape the way I see people. Help me reject favoritism and treat every person with the dignity, compassion, and love they deserve as someone created in Your image. Amen.

Day 4 – God See the Rich in Faith

Read: James 2:5

James reminds the church that we often see people through “the eyes of the world,” valuing people according to status, wealth, appearance, or what they can offer us. But God sees differently. Pastor Hayden reminded us that Christian churches often struggle with this very issue: looking at the poor and marginalized according to worldly standards rather than seeing their value in God’s kingdom. Jesus demonstrated a completely different way of seeing people. He looked beyond a person’s social standing, appearance, or reputation and saw their heart. The sinful woman in Luke 7 was viewed by Simon the Pharisee as someone unworthy. Jesus saw a person who recognized her desperate need for Him. To see like Jesus means learning to value what God values. It means recognizing that the person the world overlooks is deeply loved by God, and incredibly valuable in His kingdom. Who might you be overlooking because you have unconsciously evaluated them according to the world’s standards?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, forgive me for the ways I have allowed the world to shape how I see people. Help me recognize the value You place on every person. Teach me to see beyond status, appearance, and circumstances and to see people as You see them. Amen.

Day 5 – Let Mercy Triumph

Read: James 2:12-13

Our interactions with our neighbors and our community should reflect the mercy we have received from God. James reminds us that we are not the ultimate givers of divine judgment. Instead, we are people who understand that we ourselves will stand before God. That perspective changes the way we respond to difficult people. Mercy does not mean pretending that wrong is right. It means refusing to allow judgment, pride, or condemnation to become the defining characteristic of our relationships. We have received mercy from Christ. Therefore, we should become people who freely extend mercy to others. Is there someone with whom you need to replace judgment with mercy?

Prayer: God of mercy, thank You for the grace You have shown me. Help me extend that same mercy to others. When I am tempted to condemn, remind me of how much mercy I have received from You. Let mercy triumph in my words, attitudes, and actions. Amen.

Day 6 – When You See Them, See Jesus

Read: Matthew 25:35-40

Jesus gives us a powerful way to change how we see our neighbors: when we struggle to see Christ in another person, remember that we are called to see Christ. The difficult neighbor. The frustrating coworker. The person who made a mistake. The person whose life seems broken or inconsistent. Each one is a person Christ died for. When we love them, we are expressing our love for Jesus. This is the heart of learning to see like Jesus. We stop asking, “What do I think this person deserves?” and begin asking, “How can I love this person as Christ has loved me?” Seeing like Jesus changes the way we become neighbors. Who is one person you encounter regularly that you need to intentionally see as someone Christ loves and died for?

Prayer: Jesus, help me see You when I look at the people around me. When someone is difficult, remind me that they are loved by You. When someone is hurting, help me respond with compassion. When someone frustrates me, give me patience. Teach me to love my neighbors as an expression of my love for You. Amen.

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