



WEEKLY STUDY

WEEK 3

This was our third week in the Lenten series *I Want to See Jesus*. We looked at our deepening desperation for Jesus. We long to see things that we haven't seen in a while (in our personal lives or across a nation). We long to see things we have not seen before (God, show us something new!). And we simply long to see—to have our eyes open to the reality of resurrection (give me resurrection eyes!). It may be that your simple prayer before God this week is, “Lord, I want to see.”

Peace of Christ,
Dr. Mark Youngman
Pastor of Discipleship

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

Lord, I want to see.
Amen.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 18.35-43

As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶ When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. ³⁷ They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.”

³⁸ *He called out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”*

³⁹ *Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”*

⁴⁰ *Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, ⁴¹ “What do you want me to do for you?”*

“Lord, I want to see,” he replied.

⁴² Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you."⁴³ Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

- Jesus performed many miracles, and many of them happened on Jesus' way to somewhere else. It's important to note that the blind man was able to "see" who Jesus was as he passed by (even though he had no sight). By calling out to Jesus and begging for his mercy, the man demonstrated a faith that could lead to more faith. He just wanted to see, and what he saw was a whole new life that is possible for those who follow Jesus. **In what ways are you feeling limited to fully see Jesus? What would you like to cry out to him for as he passes by?**
- *Jesus, pass by me today. Give me eyes to see who you are, and give me vision for living a life as your follower. Amen.*

TUESDAY: HOSEA 6.2-3

*After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will restore us,
that we may live in his presence.*

³ *Let us acknowledge the Lord;
let us press on to acknowledge him.*

*As surely as the sun rises,
he will appear;
he will come to us like the winter rains,
like the spring rains that water the earth."*

- God's people had been unrepentant. They had experienced a kind of spiritual death that would require revival in order to come back to life. They knew they needed to be revived, and yet it was difficult for them to consistently acknowledge God. **Is consistency in your dependency upon God something that you find difficult? When revival comes in a way that people see something they have seen before, it is because they were looking. Their hearts were desperate for God to move. Is your heart desperate for God?**
- *God, as I read these words from Hosea I sense my desperation for you growing. Appear just as the sun rises, and fall upon this earth like the rains that bring it back to life. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: MATTHEW 11.25-27

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children."²⁶ Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

²⁷ *"All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.*

- When talking through various ways in which we see something spiritually, Pastor Jacob shared that revelation is when we see something we haven't seen before. The word *revelation* has its roots in the Greek word for "a disclosure" or "an unveiling." It allows us to see something that had once been hidden but is now revealed. To fully know the Father and to fully know the Son it must be revealed to us. And we have to come to Jesus like little children (see Pastor Gary's message from 3/05). It is revealed to those who are open and expectant. **What would it look like for you to come to Jesus as a child? How would your thoughts and actions be different?**

- *God, you have designed me with a heart to long for you. Reveal to me what you will, let me know you and your Son. Amen.*

THURSDAY: JOHN 11.24-27

Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

²⁵ *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

²⁷ *"Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."*

- When we finally get to the heart of our longing, it is to see what Jesus fully has for us...it is resurrection. Resurrection "at the last day" is the context in which we can fully see today. Only through the resurrection of Jesus Christ can we see life in the midst of our own suffering and death, and hope in the middle of a fallen world. **Do you profess with Martha that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world? How is your life today impacted by the promise of your own resurrection through Jesus?**
- *Jesus, you are the Word at the beginning, you are the Son of God. Bring me back to life today. Amen.*

FRIDAY: 1 CORINTHIANS 15.54-58

When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵ *"Where, O death, is your victory?"*

Where, O death, is your sting?"

⁵⁶ *The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

⁵⁸ *Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

- When Jesus gives us the ability to see with resurrection as our lens, we begin to view death itself in a whole new light. Paul almost taunts death in this passage because of his confidence in the resurrection of Jesus that declares death's defeat. **Have you ever known someone who displayed this kind of confidence? What did you notice about their response to their circumstances?**
- *God thank you for the victory that is mine through my Lord Jesus Christ. May I live with bold confidence today! Amen.*

SATURDAY: PHILIPPIANS 3.20-21

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

- We can find ourselves tempted to fall into a fatalistic view of life on this earth. For some, that leads to treating our bodies like they don't matter. Paul is reminding Jesus followers that we are not ultimately meant for this world, and so we live for a transformed body that will be like Jesus' resurrection body. To have resurrection eyes is to know where our true home is. **What implications does the phrase "our citizenship is in heaven" have for your earthly life today?**
- *Jesus, let me see glimpses of the resurrected life that leads to heaven. I belong to you. Amen.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Read the verses below related to the three points of Sunday's message. Discuss how each one offers insight into the working of God to show you revival, revelation, and resurrection.

Revival (Seeing something you haven't seen in a while)

Psalm 85.6-7

Isaiah 40.28-31

Revelation (Seeing something you haven't seen before)

1 Corinthians 2.10

Isaiah 65.1

Resurrection (Fully seeing Jesus)

1 Thessalonians 4.14

Romans 6.4