

## Theme for 2020

### I AM WHAT ‘YOU’ SEE!

#### **‘LORD, Open My Eyes, Help Me Believe, I Am What YOU See.’**

*“Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light... Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother’s womb. I thank you, High God—you’re breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration—what a creation! You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you. The days of my life all prepared before I’d even lived one day. Your thoughts—how rare, how beautiful! God, I’ll never comprehend them! I couldn’t even begin to count them—any more than I could count the sand of the sea. Oh, let me rise in the morning and live always with you.”*

**Matthew 6:22 (MSG); Psalm 139:13-18 (MSG)**



#### ***This Week’s Thought – March 8, 2020***

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*“And as they were sailing across the lake, Jesus repeatedly warned them, “Be on your guard against the yeast (hypocrisy, Luke 12:1) inside of the Pharisees and the yeast inside of Herod.”*  
Mark 8:15 The Passion Translation (TPT)

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Jesus describes two groups of leaders within the institutions of religion and politics. Both represent one thing—what’s best for their constituents, but deceptively live out another—a self-absorbed agenda to benefit themselves and their friends. Religious and political power are dangerous—in need of a warning sign attached, ***“Warning: if used without humility and accountability, will destroy relationships, corrupt institutions and lead culture into chaos.”***

Why did Jesus repeatedly warn His disciples, and why were their hearts too hard to accept this truth of religious and political hypocrisy in leadership? Because Jesus knows what’s in the hearts of human beings, He is able to discern insincerity and call it out before it takes advantage of a trusting soul. As a follower of Jesus, He calls us to trust and verify, to be gentle as doves, and shrewd as serpents. We sometimes contribute to our resentment by lazily taking a person at his/her word, instead of seeking to confirm his/her integrity. **Beware: a little hypocrisy can grow into a lot.**

*“Make sure you are not influenced by the hypocrisy and phoniness of the religious leaders. It permeates everything they do and teach, for they are merely serving their own interests.” (Luke 12:1, TPT)*

Yeast slowly and quietly causes dough to rise. It transforms, a subtle chemical reaction overtaking its host. In spiritual terms the old yeast of law-based living has been replaced by the new yeast of grace-based living; the results of Christ’s final sacrifice for sin on the cross. The old yeast puffs up with pride, malice and wickedness—while the new yeast-less bread fills us with the spirit of humility, sincerity and truth (see, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8). “New leavened” living loves and follows the Lord. Make sure you are fed by the Bread of Life, so you can give life.

Allow the Holy Spirit to knead into your soul the yeast of God’s Kingdom, inspired to influence the culture with Christ. A life that forgives does not hold grudges and releases resentments. A life that loves, loves especially those hard to love. A life that is content with life, true life, not striving for a false self, but resting in its true self. Beware of hypocrisy and embrace authenticity.

*“Again he asked, “What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”” (Luke 13:20-21, NIV)*

**“I am who You say I am! I am God’s workmanship, created in Christ unto good works. (Ephesians 2:10) I am an ambassador for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). I am part of a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a purchased people (1 Peter 2:9). I am greatly loved by God (Ephesians 2:4; Colossians 3:12). I AM WHAT ‘YOU’SEE!’”**

**Application:** What old way of living do you need to replace with the Spirit’s new way of living? Ask the Heavenly Father to ‘knead’ into your faith the yeast of His Kingdom for His Glory.

**Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Father, I pray that You would bless me according to the riches of Your glory, to be strengthened in my inner-spirit by Your Spirit. That I, being rooted and grounded in love, would be able to comprehend what is the breadth, the length, the depth, and the height of Your Love that surpasses all knowledge. That You would fill me with the spirit of humility, sincerity and truth. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”**

Yours in Christ, Pastor King