

## 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 – October 4, 2020***

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*“When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea while Jesus was alone on the shore. Then he saw them being battered as they rowed, because the wind was against them. Now about the fourth watch of the night, he came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by. But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought that it was a ghost and cried out. They all saw him and were troubled, but immediately, Jesus spoke with them and said, “Rejoice! It is I! Do not be afraid!”* **Mark 6:47-50 (NRSV)**

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**“We’re ALL in this TOGETHER.”** Do you feel battered and beaten by the stormy winds of this year? For many of us, the hopes of the pandemic being a short disruption to our normal lives has given way to a prolonged season of weariness, anxiety, and exhaustion. Long gone are the early days of Spring in which we all may have taken on a new hobby or project. As a matter of fact, now having entered the month of October, people are hurriedly trying to get through to the end of the year.

As I read these words from Mark 6, I find my heart greatly aligned with this story. Even the simplest of things now present a challenge and threaten to steal our joy and trust in the goodness of God. The winds are undoubtedly against us, and when this is the case, it is incredibly easy for us to forget an even greater truth: our Lord Jesus is for us. He is with us in the storm, strong when we are weak, clear eyed when all is covered by clouds.

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Yet even knowing those things, this passage teaches us something remarkable about our relationship to Christ in the midst of a storm. Jesus longs for us to cry out to Him! In fact, we are told that He “*would have passed them by*” had they not called out in their desperation. **For me, this raises a profoundly significant question: do you and I cry out to God in prayer when the winds are against us?**

As I reflect upon this past year, as well as other seasons of uncertainty or challenge, I realize that much of what I might call “prayer” has very little to do with a true conversation with God. What do I mean by this? What I am saying is that while it is incredibly easy to sit with our thoughts, fears, and failures and turn our hearts and minds to the Lord in prayer; we must realize that prayer is not the same as anxious thinking! For while we acknowledge the challenge of our situation and our inability to see a way through, we must also take heart and with great hope when turning to Jesus and hear His words spoken to us afresh. “*Rejoice! It is I! Do not be afraid!*” Thus, becomes more of the conversation. After we speak and cry out to Him, we must then await and allow Him to speak to our hearts, minds and spirits. **Continue to take heart and be encouraged ~ Faith/Joy in Jesus over Fear!**

*“But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.” (Isaiah 43:1-2 NRSV)*

**“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:** Does your prayer life look like a genuine conversation with Jesus or are you easily lost in your own thoughts and fears?

**Prayer of reflection you might pray this week:** “Father, I know You are not the source of fear, doubt and anxiety, and You do not torment us with worrisome thoughts or burden our hearts with fretfulness. That is Satan’s realm! You are the God of peace. You desire to give us power over our worries as we count on Your love and trust in Your Sovereign care. Help me remember, when fears and anxiety come knocking at my heart’s door, to answer with powerful Scripture—to remember you are a good God and faithful. I know You are with me and You will help me challenge my worries with life-building truth instead of destructive thoughts. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

Yours in Christ, Pastor King