

“I See” – Pr Jim Sprengle – Easter 3 – April 19, 2026

- I. **Luke 24:31-32** – ³¹And their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him. And He vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures?”
- II. **Perhaps you know** someone who is color blind, or maybe you are colorblind!
 - a. We had a professor at seminary who was colorblind, and we always knew when his wife didn’t help him pick out his clothes for the day...
 - i. He would wear a plaid suit coat, pants with a different plaid color, his tie, shirt, and socks were all different colors and didn’t match.
 - ii. In essence, he dressed like a clown from the circus... it was humorous, and he even made fun of his choices to lighten the mood in our classes.
 - b. While wearing colors that clash is kind of funny, not being able to see colors can be dangerous.
 - i. For example, it can be difficult to discern whether a traffic light is green or red under some conditions... and in other countries, traffic lights are not always green or red...
 - ii. If you are an electrician, it might be a real problem using the wrong color of wire.
 - iii. Anyone who operates panels with different colored buttons, or pilots and machine operators need to know every light for safe operation.
 - c. The standard test for colorblindness is called an Ishihara test, which has a bunch of different colored dots to figure out which colors are a problem.
 - i. Most people only have certain colors that give them trouble, like red and green... so, they could be holding a red apple and never know it... because its color is hidden to them... it looks green.
 - d. The most severe colorblindness is monochrome – or black and white.
 - i. I would like to say that our understanding and knowledge of God are mostly monochrome in this lifetime... at least from our ability to figure things out.
 - ii. Yet, the Holy Scriptures are able to open our eyes, just as the risen Jesus was able to open the eyes of His disciples on the road to Emmaus.
- III. **Cleopas and his friend** were in a deep discussion and exchange of thought.
 - a. The word had gotten back to them that women went to the tomb earlier that day and Jesus was not there but was alive... and even Peter had seen the empty tomb.
 - i. In some ways they were heartbroken, because they hoped Jesus would be the Savior, or the one who would redeem Israel. (v 21)

- ii. In many ways, they were still in a black and white world, but they were beginning to acknowledge the possibility that Jesus was risen from the grave.
- b. Jesus comes to them, and it says that they were kept from recognizing or “knowing” who Jesus was. (v 16)
 - i. Jesus had many options at this point in the interaction... but rather than giving them the truth of who He is immediately, He took them through the Old Testament – the Scriptures – God’s own Word.
 - ii. What an amazing gift to have the risen Lord walk through the Bible and point out the ways God’s plan of salvation played out through His Son Jesus.
- c. However, I can’t imagine this was the first time these men had heard a lot of these connections – but they weren’t ready to take it in until now.
 - i. The resurrection does that for people... You see, even the Gospel of John tells of the resurrection having power like that... As Jesus told the Pharisees that if they tore down the temple of His body, He would raise it up in three days... and then it says... “When therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.” (John 2:22)
 - ii. The resurrection brings about faith... and faith brings about a new way of seeing and understanding who God is... and what God has done.

IV. **The power of God’s Word is at our disposal whenever we desire.**

- a. Yet, we often don’t desire it at all.
- b. Lots of us look at His Word as just another burden that guilt trips us for not reading it... like an academic course with one of those huge textbooks that’s so dry we have to read it with a glass of water to get through it.
- c. Sadly, the love of God in our lives does not compel us to dive deeper into a relationship with Him in the Word, but we use all kinds of excuses for not spending time in the Word.
 - i. The biggest one I hear is, “I just don’t understand it... it’s too confusing... too complex for me.”
 - ii. Then I hear, “I’m not a reader, it’s something I’ve never done well.”
 - iii. Another is that taking the time to sit down and read the Bible is hard to fit into a busy schedule.
 - iv. Also, “I don’t even know where to start – it’s just overwhelming.”
- d. I can also give you some reasons why people don’t read the Bible and allow it to engage them and open their eyes...
 - i. Fear of losing control – as some people don’t want to know what God says about life in Him... you might say ignorance is bliss.
 - ii. Others do not see God’s Word as inspired and inerrant, but full of errors... so they don’t trust it fully.

- iii. Still others are just too lazy to put the effort in... and they simply rely on others who know the Word to tell them what it says.
- e. However, God is so passionate about the Word, that Jesus Himself is called the Word...
 - i. As John says in chapter one, the “Word was with God and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1; 14)
 - ii. When you read and study the Scriptures, God is engaging you... Jesus Christ is coming to you and opening your eyes so you can see.

V. **The disciples heard the Word of God and even had a meal with Jesus.**

- a. It says that they asked Jesus to stay with them because it was so late, and when He broke the bread and gave thanks... they finally saw who was really with them the whole time. (vs 31)
- b. Yes, the Lord was alive and risen from the dead... **He is risen!** (**He is risen indeed, alleluia!**)
- c. The Word Himself had been in their presence, and not only that, He walked them through the Scriptures to tie everything together... as the uncertainty became certainty... as the black and white became full color.
- d. God chooses to reveal Himself in plain and simple ways... and the disciples had their eyes opened during the breaking of the bread – a clear reminder of what He did at the Last Supper.
 - i. No, this was probably not a communion meal, and yet, the words are similar... and the message is that Jesus’ body was broken for us.
 - ii. Cleopas and his friend were reminded of the gifts that Jesus gives... faith, certainty, sight, and truth.
- e. Often, we treat the Lord’s Supper like we do His Word, in that we don’t fully apprehend the great blessings that it provides.
 - i. We receive the true body and true blood of Jesus that won us forgiveness... the payment for our sins.
 - ii. We receive hidden under bread and wine the body and blood of our Savior who rose from the dead to give us forgiveness, life, and salvation.
 - iii. And each time these gifts are placed in our hands, a much bigger reality is right there with them – an encounter with the Living God!
- f. In all the ways that we fail to recognize God’s overwhelming love and forgiveness for us, always know that God pursues and seeks a deeper relationship with us every day.
 - i. He shows up in hidden ways, like bread and wine, water, and in words... but it doesn’t mean they aren’t powerful.
 - ii. He prepares us and slowly transitions us from seeing in black and white to revealing the entire spectrum of color.
 - iii. So here we are... still walking the road, but not in black and white.

- iv. In His Word and in His gifts, the risen Christ opens our eyes to see:
He's been with us all along... and now, in Him, we truly see.