**Eyesight – Week 4 – Myself**

**June 1-2, 2019**

What’s up guys?! We have been in a series called Eyesight and it’s all been based around a prayer which says, “God, help me to see \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the way You see \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” We’ve talked about our WORLD, our FAMILY, and our FRIENDS last week. Today, our THP is much more personal.

**THP: God, help me to see MYSELF the way You see ME.**

I believe one of the toughest things in life is living up to expectations. It could be expectations from our family, friends, teachers, coaches, etc. It could be expectations we put on ourselves. It’s very rare that we actually live up to those expectations. We may never be as athletic as we want to be, as attractive as we wish we were or the boy or girl we like wishes we were, as smart as we want to be or as a good of a student as our family or teachers want us to be…among many other things.

A movie called “Hidden Figures” came out a couple of years ago about three women who were part of the NASA space program in the 1960s. One of the women, Mary Jackson, aspires to be one of the engineers at NASA, but she is hesitant because she feels like she doesn’t meet the expectations set before her. She is an African-American woman and in the 1960s, she feels that limits her expectations. In some ways, she’s right…prejudice against both African-Americans and women existed at that time just like it does today. However, she has a conversation with someone that helps change her perspective. Check this out…

**(Leader Note: Show “Hidden Figures” message video)**

Sometimes, we have to overcome expectations: the ones we put on ourselves or the ones others put on us. The man reminds her of exactly that. I think if we were all honest, we’re all a little bit like Mary. All of us have doubts about whether or not we can reach our goals. All of us have insecurities. All of us have aspects of ourselves that we wish were different or that we could change. It can lead to a negative view of ourselves. God teaches us something much better…something called grace.

Grace is undeserved love and the grace of God is so incredible. The message of the Bible is not that I do lots of good things, live up to all expectations, and give God a perfect life and then He accepts me. It’s the exact opposite. God accepts me right now and because of that, I should want to live my life in obedience to him because I am so thankful for everything He has done for me and given to me.

However, we can also allow pride to rule our life. Some of us think we don’t need any help…from others or from God. Many people see themselves as superior to others. We look down on people who may not be as good as us, or as athletic as us, or as pretty as us. In fact, we like it that way.

C.S. Lewis says this in his book Mere Christianity: *“Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next person. We say that people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good-looking, but they are not. They are proud of being richer, or cleverer, or better-looking than others.”*

**You see guys…when we don’t see ourselves the way God sees us, we will either think too HIGHLY of ourselves or too LOWLY of ourselves.**

Every single day, at some point, we look at ourselves in the mirror. In those moments, what do you see? Do you see yourself through God’s eyes…or your own?

**(Leaders Note: Write these words on white t-shirts and select 5 of your leaders to wear the shirts. Bring them up on stage while having their back facing the audience. Start holding up or putting on the t-shirts one-by-one while reading or reciting each statement)**

**Not Enough:** Maybe you hate the way you look. You wished you looked different. You’re not a good enough \_\_\_\_\_\_. You’re not a good enough student. You wished God would have made you differently.

**Failure:** You feel like you’ve blown it. You can never get it right. You’ll never recover. When you fail, you might be tempted to harm yourself in some way.

**Reject:** Maybe you feel like a reject. Maybe you feel like no one wants you or loves you. You don’t feel accepted by anyone. You just want someone to accept you.

**Alone:** Maybe you feel alone. You don’t feel like anyone can relate to what you’re going through. You wish you had a friend: a true friend. You feel like no one wants to help you. You’re afraid. You’re anxious or depressed.

**Worthless:** You feel completely worthless. You have no value. The world wouldn’t even care if you were gone. Maybe you wish you were gone. There’s nothing you can offer this world.

Each and every one of these feelings are very powerful and I am sure that all of you have experienced most if not all of them at some point. However, if we are going to see ourselves the way that God sees us, then we need to stop believing these lies and start believing the truth about ourselves. The truth of what God says about us.

**Ephesians 2:10 (Masterpiece):** *“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” (NLT)*

**Mark 3:28a (Forgiven):** *“Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins…” (NIV)*

**John 1:12 (Child of God):** *“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God…” (NIV)*

**Romans 15:7 (Accepted):** *“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” (NIV)*

**John 3:16-17 (Loved):** *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (NIV)*

**Embrace this prayer from our THP today: God, help me to see MYSELF the way You see ME.**

I have a question for each of you today: how do you see yourself? Do you want to begin to see yourself the way that God does? Maybe you’ve never put your trust in God before or maybe you simply need to accept the gift of grace; an undeserved gift that says, “I am accepted. I am loved. I have been saved by Jesus Christ.” You may have never taken that first step and decided to make a commitment to Jesus and become a Christian. I want to give you an opportunity to do that today!

**(Leaders Note: Transition into a Gospel presentation and response time)**