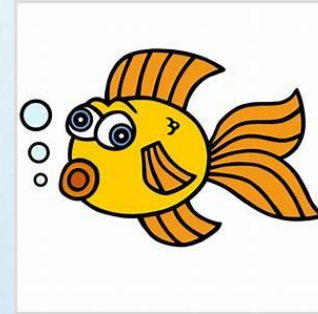


THE GOD IMPULSE III

LUKE 6:36 BE MERCIFUL, JUST AS YOUR FATHER IS
MERCIFUL. NIV

THE GOOD SAMARITAN **SAW AND “FELT”** MERCY
FOR THE BEATEN ENEMY!

HUMANS VS. GOLDFISH



Eight seconds. That's the average attention span of a human today, according to a study from Microsoft. Researchers say that goldfish are more attentive than we are.

- IN THE SPACE OF JUST FIFTEEN YEARS, OUR OWN INCREDIBLE ADVANCES AND FRENETIC SOCIETAL PACE HAVE CONSPIRED, PARADOXICALLY, TO MAKE US DUMBER.
- WE CAN SEE THE IMPACT OF THIS EIGHT-SECOND ATTENTION SPAN EVERYWHERE IN OUR CULTURE.
- THIS ENEMY, HURRY, CONTRIBUTES TO THE LACK OF MERCY IN OUR CULTURE AS WELL
- THINK AGAIN OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN. BEFORE HE COULD BANDAGE UP THE TRAVELER'S WOUNDS AND TAKE HIM TO THE INN, WHAT HAD TO HAPPEN? **HE HAD TO SEE HIM. HE HAD TO FEEL AN INKLING TO HELP. "AND WHEN HE SAW HIM, HE HAD COMPASSION"** (LUKE 10: 33)

THE WOOL OVER OUR EYES



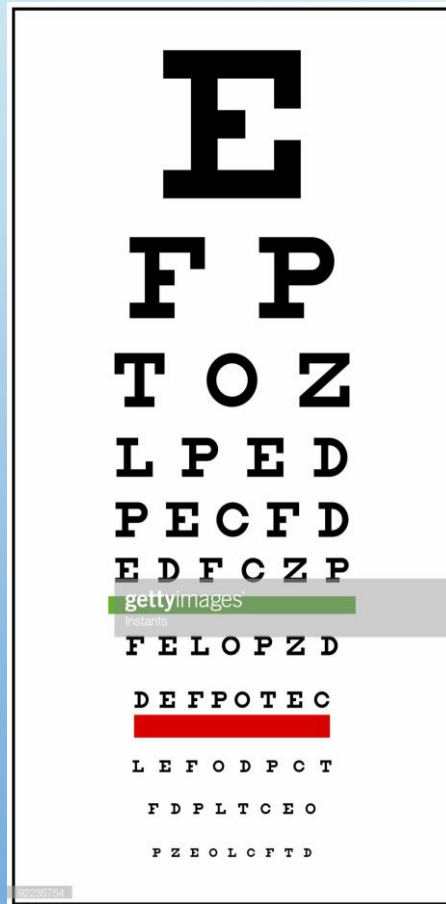
Vision

Sheep depend heavily on their vision. They have excellent peripheral vision and can see behind themselves without turning their heads. However, they have poor depth perception. They cannot see immediately in front of their noses. Some vertical vision may also have been sacrificed in order to have a wider field of vision. For example, it is doubtful that a sheep would be able to see something in a tree.

Heads down – We can't see what is right in front of us! Danger or needs!

SEEING LIKE GOD DOES

- WHILE BATS RELY ON THEIR SENSE OF HEARING AND SHARKS DEPEND ON THEIR SENSE OF SMELL, WE HUMANS LEAN ON OUR SENSE OF SIGHT. WE FILTER THE WORLD THROUGH OUR EYES,



1 Corinthians 13:12 Now we see things imperfectly as in a cloudy mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely. NLT

Barne's Notes -Paul here makes use of another illustration to show the imperfection of our knowledge here. Compared with what it will be in the future world, it is like the imperfect view of an object which we have in looking through an obscure and opaque medium compared with the view which we have when we look at it "face to face."

4 LENS NEEDED TO SEE:

HEARING WITH AN UN-CALLOUSED HEART

- MATTHEW 13:11-17 HE REPLIED, "YOU ARE PERMITTED TO UNDERSTAND THE SECRETS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, BUT OTHERS ARE NOT. 12 TO THOSE WHO LISTEN TO MY TEACHING, MORE UNDERSTANDING WILL BE GIVEN, AND THEY WILL HAVE AN ABUNDANCE OF KNOWLEDGE. BUT FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT LISTENING, EVEN WHAT LITTLE UNDERSTANDING THEY HAVE WILL BE TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM. 13 THAT IS WHY I USE THESE PARABLES,
- FOR THEY LOOK, BUT THEY DON'T REALLY SEE. THEY HEAR, BUT THEY DON'T REALLY LISTEN OR UNDERSTAND.
- 14 THIS FULFILLS THE PROPHECY OF ISAIAH THAT SAYS, 'WHEN YOU HEAR WHAT I SAY, YOU WILL NOT UNDERSTAND. WHEN YOU SEE WHAT I DO, YOU WILL NOT COMPREHEND. 15 FOR THE HEARTS OF THESE PEOPLE ARE HARDENED, AND THEIR EARS CANNOT HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES— SO THEIR EYES CANNOT SEE, AND THEIR EARS CANNOT HEAR, AND THEIR HEARTS CANNOT UNDERSTAND, AND THEY CANNOT TURN TO ME AND LET ME HEAL THEM.'
- 16 "BUT BLESSED ARE YOUR EYES, BECAUSE THEY SEE; AND YOUR EARS, BECAUSE THEY HEAR. 17 I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, MANY PROPHETS AND RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE LONGED TO SEE WHAT YOU SEE, BUT THEY DIDN'T SEE IT. AND THEY LONGED TO HEAR WHAT YOU HEAR, BUT THEY DIDN'T HEAR IT.


- IN HIS “EXPOSITION OF THE BIBLE,” JOHN GILL SAYS PEOPLE BECAME **“INCAPABLE OF TAKING IN THE TRUE SENSE AND MEANING OF WHAT THEY SAW.”**
- NOT ONLY DO WE LOSE THE ABILITY TO SEE, BUT WE LOSE THE ABILITY TO FEEL.

- **OUR WORLD CONSPIRES TO DESENSITIZE US.**
 - MASS VIOLENCE – ACTUAL AND PRODUCED
 - VIDEO GAMES

- WE CAN'T GET OUR MINDS AROUND ALL THE HORRORS AROUND US, SO WE BUILD UP SCAR TISSUE. CALLUSES. OUR HEARTS GROW DULL. WE CLOSE OUR EYES AND, WHEN THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE, WE CLOSE OUR SOULS.

THE UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM – VALUING WHAT GOD VALUES

- **THE POOR IN SPIRIT.** “BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN” (MATTHEW 5: 3 NIV).
- **THE LITERAL POOR.** “BLESSED ARE YOU WHO ARE POOR, FOR YOURS IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD” (LUKE 6: 20 NIV).
- **CHILDREN.** “TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, UNLESS YOU TURN AND BECOME LIKE CHILDREN, YOU WILL NEVER ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. WHOEVER HUMBLER HIMSELF LIKE THIS CHILD IS THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN” (MATTHEW 18: 3–4).
- **SERVANTS.** “THE GREATEST AMONG YOU SHALL BE YOUR SERVANT. WHOEVER EXALTS HIMSELF WILL BE HUMBLER, AND WHOEVER HUMBLER HIMSELF WILL BE EXALTED” (MATTHEW 23: 11–12).
- **SLAVES.** “INSTEAD, WHOEVER WANTS TO BECOME GREAT AMONG YOU MUST BE YOUR SERVANT, AND WHOEVER WANTS TO BE FIRST MUST BE YOUR SLAVE” (MATTHEW 20: 26–27 NIV).
- **ALL THE PEOPLE AND THINGS THE WORLD ENCOURAGES US TO IGNORE, GOD WANTS US TO SEE.**
- **THAT’S WHAT MAKES THE GOOD SAMARITAN STORY SO POWERFUL; HE SAW AND RESPONDED TO THE BEATEN MAN WHO WAS, TECHNICALLY, HIS ENEMY. HE REACHED DOWN TO HELP SOMEONE WHO WAS POOR AND VULNERABLE.**



• **UNDERSTANDING THE PARADOXES** - A "PARADOX" IS DEFINED AS A SEEMINGLY SELF-CONTRADICTIONARY DECLARATION BUT IS IN FACT TRUE.

- WE'RE MORE CONNECTED THAN WE'VE EVER BEEN, BUT MOST OF US FEEL MORE ALONE THAN EVER.
 - MOST OF US CARRY ALL THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD IN OUR POCKETS, BUT WE CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON ANY OF IT LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
 - WE GET DIRECTIONS FROM OUR PHONES WITH JUST A COUPLE OF CLICKS OR A WORD OR TWO, BUT WE'RE MORE LOST THAN EVER.
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