

“For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You.” (NASB 2 Chronicles 20:12)

(My husband and I have discovered a blessing in this new strange season of online virtual church. Our Sunday mornings begin at 8:30 by “going to” BeFree Community Church in Alton, New Hampshire and hearing their pastor, our son-in-law, preach. Then we “go to” The Springs EFC in Springfield, Missouri, to hear their pastor, our son, preach. Finally, we get to “go to” our church and worship with you all. Last Sunday our son took us to this passage in 2 Chronicles 20. I have sat in this verse for days now. Consider with me...)

See...

I turn on the news and see...

I look at Facebook and see...

I check my email and see...

And fear threatens to drown me like waves of a mighty storm.

I don't want to see anymore! I want to turn away my eyes and look at Hallmark movies and see little towns where a potential cancellation of an annual festival is the greatest threat. No, I don't want to see anymore. I want to close my eyes only to find that the next time I open them, this has all been a dreadful dream.

It is hard to see right now, isn't it? It is hard to see because it hurts. We see the pain of those we love and even those we don't know and our hearts ache. We see loss and suffering around us both far away and up close, and for some, so very close. When our eyes are set on the news and the pain and the unknown alone, waves of fear and worry threaten to pull us under, overwhelm us, and it feels like we may drown. We want to close our eyes and make it go away. But that is not the answer. We need to see. Our eyes need to be open. We can't close our eyes. What do we see? We see how powerless we are before this great multitude coming against us and we don't know what to do. And so our eyes must not stay fixed on this “multitude of a virus and economic crisis” or even the pain around us. We must do as the king of Judah, Jehosaphat, did. When his nation was being attacked by multiple enemies, he declared. “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You!” We must fix our eyes on our God. We must see Him!

Who do we see?

We see the God Hagar saw, the God who sees and the God who hears.

We see the God Sarah saw, the God with whom nothing is impossible.

We see the God Rahab saw, the Lord God, God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath, the God who delivers His people from the mightiest of enemies.

We see the God Deborah saw, the God before whom the earth trembles and the mountain quakes, the God to whom she prayed, “Your friends will be like the sun as he rises in his might.”

We see the God Ruth saw, the God of Israel under whose wings refuge is found.

We see the God Hannah saw, the God who breaks the bows of the mighty but binds the feeble with strength, the God who raises up the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap.

We see the God the widow of Zarephath saw, the God who fills a jar of flour and jug of oil continually when no flour or oil is to be found.

We see the God Mary saw, the God who was her Savior, the God whose mercy is for those who fear Him.

We see the God a widow from Nain saw, the God who looked on her grief with compassion and raised her son to life.

We see the God a sinful woman saw, the God worthy of the most expensive perfume and extravagant love because of His extravagant forgiveness.

We see the God an outcast woman saw, the God who healed her, looked at her, made her His, and called her daughter.

We see the God Mary of Bethany saw, the God who elevated her, taught her as He would one of His disciples, and recorded her honor for all of history.

We see the God an ignored, disabled, bent over woman saw, the God who saw her, touched her, freed her, in spite of the abuse He would receive.

We see the God Mary Magdalene saw, the God who was pierced, crushed, wounded, slaughtered like a lamb, who from the cross looked on her with eyes of incomprehensible love, and bore all her sin, all her diseases, all her griefs, all her sorrows.

We see the God who looks at you and me who are in Christ Jesus and says, "Neither tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword, neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate you from my love."

We see the God whose face we, His servants, will see one day, the face of the Lamb of God sitting on His throne with His name on our foreheads. We see the One Who will be our light, and with whom we will reign forever and ever.

We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on Him.