

The Terre Haute

SPEAKER

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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GREAT BIBLE “BEHOLD’S”

John Edwards

The word “*behold*” is found in 1,275 verses in my Bible and expresses the idea of earnest looking. Here are some things we would do well to look at and consider:

THE FOWLS OF THE AIR.

In the midst of the great Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught about anxiety and worry (Mt. 6:25-34). He said, “*take no thought*” (vv. 25, 31, 34) or do not worry, and used the birds to illustrate God’s providential care. Verse 26 records, “*Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?*” The point is: God will take care of you! When the pandemic struck and we observed people getting sick and dying, countries shutting down, businesses closing, people being laid off and ordered to stay at home, wasn’t it comforting to see the birds still flying and to hear them still singing to be reminded, “His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me”?

THE BEAM IN THINE EYE.

Sometimes we may be overly critical of others. Is it possible that we need to be less critical

of others and more critical of ourselves? The Lord preached about hypocritical judgment in Matthew 7:1-5. Observe these questions in verses 3 and 4: “*And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?*” A “*mote*” is “a tiny straw or bit of wool, such as might fly into the eye, and is used metaphorically of a minor fault” while “*beams*” being received at their ends into walls or pieces of timber. The Lord used it metaphorically, in contrast to a mote, “of a great fault, or vice,” (*Vine’s Expository Dictionary*). Jesus taught that we need to first remove “*the beam*” (the large piece of timber from our own eye) by eliminating the great fault or vice from our life, before we try to pull “*the mote*” (the tiny straw or bit of wool) from our brother’s eye by striving to correct the minor fault in his life. Jesus said, “*Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye*” (Mt. 7:5). How many times have we played the hypocrite in this regard?

THE LAMB OF GOD. In John 5, when Jesus introduced testimony of Himself, He

mentioned how John “*bare witness unto the truth*” (Jn. 5:33). This he did as recorded in John 1: “*The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world....And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God*” (vv. 29, 34). “*Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!*” (vv. 35-36). What an impression that must have made on those two individuals as the word of the Lord says: “*And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus*” (Jn. 1:37). Perhaps we would be more successful in getting folks to follow Jesus, if we could just get them to behold the lamb of God! We behold the lamb of God **typified** in all the sacrificial lambs of the Old Testament. We behold the lamb of God **prophesied** in Isaiah 53. We behold the lamb of God **crucified** in the gospel accounts as Jesus “*was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer*” (Acts 8:32) was “*crucified and slain*” (Acts 2:23). We behold the lamb of God **glorified** in the throne scene of Revelation 5 when John “*...beheld...in the midst of the throne...a Lamb...*” and heard the resounding voice: “*Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and*

riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing” (vv. 6-14). Peter penned, “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Pet. 1:18-19).

THE GOODNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD. Many have wrong impressions of God, thinking He is all love and will not condemn anybody. Paul penned, “Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off” (Rom. 11:22). God is both good and severe! This is seen in “A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God...And a curse, if ye will not obey...” (Dt. 11:27-28). The judgment appearance will show God is both a God of goodness and severity as “...these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal” (Mt. 25:46).

HOW GREAT A MATTER A LITTLE FIRE KINDLETH. James’ tongue teaching points out just how powerful the little tongue is. As “bits in the horses’ mouths” and “the ships...very small helm” (Jas. 3:3-4), “Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell” (Jas. 3:5-6). Imagine the potential a little fire has in the midst of a great amount of flammable material! The power of the tongue is immense, and we must be careful how we use it! The Psalmist said, “I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me” (Ps. 39:1). James stated, “If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain” (Jas. 1:26).

THE LOVE OF GOD. The apostle John instructed,

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...” (1 Jn. 3:1). When we behold the Christ upon the cross, we behold the great love of God! “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). F.M. Lehman, in the song, The Love Of God, says it so well:

“The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star.
And reaches to the lowest hell...”

Can you think of any greater privilege than to be called the sons of God? “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal. 3:26-27). Romans 8 points out: “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ...” (v. 17). This inheritance is “...incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you” (1 Pet. 1:4). The love of God has made it all possible!

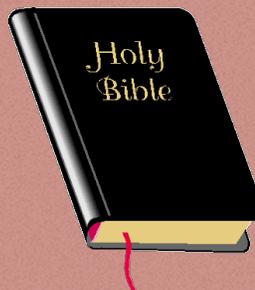
Take time to behold!

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We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

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We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

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