

“What Are You Overlooking?”

II Samuel 12: 1-14

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Recently, I attended a luncheon on Mercer’s Atlanta campus and the guest speaker was Dr. John Claypool, visiting professor of preaching at McAfee. He made a statement that caught my attention and caused my mind to wander. Immediately, I began formulating this sermon. What did he say that was so captivating? **“I cannot see all of myself by myself.”**

His words were simple yet profound. I cannot see all of myself by myself. **Why? Physically, it is impossible.** Without the aid of a mirror, there are parts of my body I cannot see. That’s not all bad, either. Unless I choose to look in a mirror, I don’t have to look at my thinning hair and the growing bald spot on my head.

Another reason we cannot see all of ourselves by ourselves is because we have **poor eyesight**. Our vision is clouded and there are many things we overlook. There have been times when Jackie has said, “How long have you had that mole on your arm or leg?” and I replied, “What mole?” My vision was not as sharp and clear as hers.

Perhaps the greatest reason we cannot see all of ourselves by ourselves is because **our eyes are closed**. We might not like what we would see so we ignore what is there.

I have to believe this is what David did. He did not want to see the darker side of his soul. He did not want to see the person who was guilty of deceit, murder and adultery by taking Bathsheba away from her husband, Uriah. So what did David do? He shut his eyes and ignored reality.

Have you ever done this? Who hasn’t?

Let’s put a different spin on this, though. Sometimes we close our eyes and fail to see the good in our lives. I know people who have such low self-esteem that they cannot see the skills, talents, abilities and gifts they possess. They refuse to believe that they can achieve more than they are attempting because inferiority and doubts have blinded them. How tragic it is to see so much wasted potential.

Who can help us see what we are missing? Who helped David? A prophet/pastoral counselor by the name of Nathan came to his rescue. He confronted David with a parable that mirrored his own situation when he told of a rich man who killed a poor man’s only sheep to feed his guest. He forced David to see what he was ignoring in his own life with those piercing words, “You are the man!”

“You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites” II Samuel 12:9.

Who can help us see what we are missing? The most obvious answer is someone who loves us. A responsible parent, friend or teacher will be honest with us and help us to see what we are overlooking.

However, we can also learn a lot about ourselves from those who may not love us as much as others. I recognized years ago that I needed to listen to people who were angry with me. Angry people will tell you the truth for the most part. Don’t shrug off what they say without examining their words.

I'll tell you who else wants to help us learn everything we need to know about ourselves and that is God. We have been created in His image. He knows everything about us. He knows our strengths and weaknesses. He is well aware of our potential and our vulnerabilities and is anxious to reveal them to us.

That's why He sent Nathan to David. Evidently Nathan's words combined with some intense prayer time led to David's request in Psalm 139:23-24, **“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me into the way everlasting.”**

Who is trying to help you see the hidden parts of your life? How long have they been trying? I wonder what they see that you do not and I wonder what difference it would make if you could see it?

Who are you trying to help see the hidden parts of their life? How long have you been trying? It takes a lot of patience and creativity, doesn't it? God understands and will provide both. Just ask Nathan and David.