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God's Defining View

On Tuesday, I discussed the Mountain of the Lord and the Reality of God's View – how it is lifted out from the view of mankind and has Christ as its focus. I want to follow a similar vein this morning, specifically dealing with how the Lord's view is a defining view. That not only does he "see" something Real, but that what He sees, knows, comprehends, and IS in His Person, is REALITY – and how that REALITY defines, cuts, and governs all things. Specifically, how as His Body, His View MUST define the understanding of our hearts – who we are in Him, as a result of Who HE IS in us. This whole thing is wrapped up in Him. While we've said similar things for the past seven years, how quickly the Truth of the Cross of Christ can become ideas in our heads and thoughts to be communicated merely by our human tongue. But God's understanding is not merely words, it IS HIS SON, and not just His Son described, but HIS SON REVEALED. When the Son is present in His Appearing, God has His definition. He need not use words to describe it. You see the Son – You see the wisdom of God, the understanding of God, the comprehension of God – YOU SEE THE SON. And when our hearts truly see Him in His Appearing, then our hearts begin to comprehend that THE View of the Lord is not merely passing through our souls on our way to a different view, but that it is to be the abiding Relationship that God has established, where our hearts don't just recognize that He has "a" View, but that our souls become defined by THE ONLY View God knows.

As I considered what has been shared the last couple weeks concerning "going on to fullness", my heart was challenged by the fact that I don't really know what that means. If I'm being honest, we've amassed certain catch phrases like "seeing the Lord" or "going on with the Lord" – that when rightly defined in His View are descriptive of true comprehension, but when merely stored in my head as some kind of rolodexed fact, has the complete wrong definition to it. This is where we (I) get mistaken in our journey with the Lord. We don't know where or how God defines things...not really. Quickly terms, phrases, verses of Scripture, sermons become definitions for a Christian walk – and while I'm not speaking against any of those things – I am trying to describe that those things are not God's Definition. He defines things differently. And I see that when I approach the Lord thinking he will somehow confirm what I already know – instantly, I don't really understand what He is seeking to do in me. I put myself at odds with His Work – because His Work has nothing to do with my comprehension of things – it has everything to do with HIS Comprehension of things. This is what I want to deal with this morning.

I think the type of what I am trying to describe is really good. Let's think back to the Old Covenant, where God is first dealing with Moses on Mt. Sinai. Why did God choose a mountain for their meeting place? Why did he require Moses to climb up out of the view of the rest of Israel? Why use a mountain? In the days of the Old Covenant, God had to speak using earthly materials. How could He demonstrate that His View was not their view? How could He show forth that "Abraham, in order to see this land, you must lift up your eyes"? What better way than to call Moses to a place that is lifted up out of the view of man, the earth, that which is "below"? So God calls Moses up to the top of the Mountain. See, the Lord determines the meeting. Moses didn't really determine anything. He simply presented himself at the place that the Lord had determined. When he presented himself at that place, the Lord demanded something. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you stand is Holy." Like He was saying, "I don't care where you've walked before, I don't care what your experiences have been, whether good or bad - you've never been in this comprehension of things. That which binds you to the earth (your sandals) will be removed when you come to where I AM." In Mt. Sinai, God begins to describe His Understanding of Israel. Remember - when God first called Israel out of Egypt, what did He say? "Israel IS MY SON." He re-iterates this to Moses in the mountain. See, before Israel ever comes into existence, God has them defined. He already knows who Righteousness is, even before a single Israelite hears about the Law, let alone begins to act it out. He knows what Faith is, well before you and I ever accept Salvation. He knows what Reality is, even before we are born. How then can we then determine anything? Here we are thinking we can add to Salvation based on our thoughts, feelings, emotion all out from a view that is bound to the earth. But the first thing God does with Moses when trying to show Him something of His perspective, is to bring Him onto Higher Ground. --To lift his soul out of the view that Moses can have by his first birth - to give the view that can only be seen when it is REVEALED. And so the Lord gives Moses the Law, not just the commandments, but the Order of the Priesthood. He describes Salvation by describing the building of the Tabernacle. Every detail. Every possible scenario that the law could encounter through the peoples' actions. Everything defined by God. He leaves nothing to question. Nothing to argue. Nothing to negotiate. It's His Way, or it's your way. And your way is not His Way.

Look at what He says to Moses, "See to it that you do all things according to THE PATTERN that I have **SHOWN you.**" In other words, the Lord would say "unless I have defined it in my Appearing, it has no place in Israel, and I have nothing to do with it." Moses goes about to ensure that what God had defined, is what Israel functioned according to. If they didn't, they were killed, stoned, cast off from the people. Is it because God is mean? Or is it because God can only deal according to the Covenant that He establishes? So many of us, in our hearts, try to approach the Lord according to something other than what He has defined, and it doesn't work. And we feel distant from the Lord. We feel cast off. We even feel distant from one another, like there is nothing to relate to. Well guess what? - unless He is your definition of Fellowship, then you and I don't have anything in common. It will become evident. You step outside of Him, there's no covenant with you and the Lord. The Lord remains faithful to His Covenant, His

Relationship, His Understanding. Let us not be so foolish to think that we're okay to walk away from His View. The moment you do that, you've just walked away from everything. And let me say, you won't simply walk off into a state of things that are no longer defined – as if nothing has definition anymore. You'll walk right into your own definition of things, and the Lord will become a distant remembrance. He will remain in His Understanding, and always call you and I back to that. He will not meet you where you think you are. He'll meet you where He knows His Son is. Remember, He determines the meeting place.

So why am I talking about this? What does this have to do with you and I? Refer to the diagram on the board. What is the Lord always saying over and over in your Bible? "Days are coming when I'm not going to write the Law on tablets of stone, I am going to write them in your Heart." "I'm not simply going to lead you by the hand, I will come and dwell in your Midst." What is the work of the Cross? See the Lord has His Defining Word/View before Israel ever comes out of Egypt. Moses goes up to mountain, the Higher Ground, so that God's view can be shown to Him – can be revealed. "In the Mountain of the Lord, it shall be seen." Then Moses takes what he has seen and presents it to Israel as their Definition of all things. They must live according to everything that God defined. Moses comes down from "above" to that which is "below." I hope you can see the parallel I am trying to draw. What does John 1 say?

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God, and the Word was with God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men..." "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father."

The "Word became flesh and dwelt among us" – Don't you see - when God sends forth His Son, He sends forth the comprehension He had on His Mountain. In the same way that Moses descended off the mountain to merely present to Israel God's Understanding, Jesus descends out from His Father into the earth AS God's Understanding. Instantly, you begin to see that He defines things according to Himself. Oh Israel – you speak of Righteousness as though you have the ability to define it. I AM Righteousness. You speak of life as some "thing" on earth. I AM Life. You speak of resurrection like it is yours. I AM RESURRECTION. And how does Israel respond? They refer back to men like Abraham and Moses and say "here's our definition of things – Law, Sabbath, Judgment, Righteousness, Salvation, ISRAEL – the comprehension of all of those things were told to us by Moses." The Lord says, (I'm paraphrasing), "Don't you get it, before any of those things were defined in human words, I AM! Before there ever was a law, before there ever was a Moses, before there ever was an Israel, I DEFINED EVERYTHING. I STILL DEFINE EVERYTHING....but you won't come to Me, so that you may have Life." Israel rejects him. Why? -because their expectations of Messiah (of everything!) came out of **their** definition of things. They refused to seek a comprehension that could only be revealed. They refused to find an Understanding that could only be given of God,

because God WAS the Understanding. He couldn't be contained in their heads, as some thought or idea. He had to be revealed in their hearts.

What is the work of the Cross? The Son brings you and I back to His Father in Himself. Before, where only Moses could go, now the Son brings all of Israel – right to the View of His Father. The Hebrew writer says, “you have not come to Mt. Sinai again.” You have come to Mt. Zion, the city of the Living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem – and to the general assembly and the **church** of the Firstborn.” Now the whole church is defined in that Mountain. Like Moses did, each member must now come to God's comprehension of things. We must in our hearts come to His meeting place – His Son. We must come not having any preconceived notion like we have something defined. I don't care if we've heard this gospel for the better part of a decade. Something as simple as “seeing Jesus” must cease to be defined in our heads as something good and worthwhile, and must be something that fills our hearts with definition as we actually in our soul BEHOLD HIM. In His Appearing, in that beholding, you need not worry about whether you have things properly defined. His View will Define it. If His View is not defining your heart, then you and I need to understand, you are not walking in covenant. This Word is living, and active and sharp – He will cut, form and work in you everything that He is, but you and I have to seek Him where He is...in HIS comprehension of things. It's His Faith. It's His View. It's His Definition. Yes – we talked last week, Salvation is fully given – but it can be fully given and not fully received. Does that mean it is not a work of Grace? Absolutely not. Because when you turn your heart to the Lord, you are always turning to Grace. As if your works could grant you entrance – “No man cometh but by Me.” It is the Grace of God that His View govern His Church – that He govern your soul. That He be the definition of all things. May the Lord continue to work in us the Salvation that is ready to be revealed. If it is not revealed, it is not salvation. It is pure imagination. I pray that the Lord deal with the condition of our hearts.