

OUR EYES ON JESUS

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HEBREWS 12:1-2(NLTSE) “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honour beside God’s throne”

- If we turn our face toward the sun, the darkness of the shadows will always be behind us
- In this natural world, as long as there is light, there will always be shadows or troubles

MATTHEW 6:34(NLTSE) “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today

- Jesus is one of three things:
 1. The greatest con artist that pulled off the biggest scam in history
 2. Or, He was a deranged mentally unstable lunatic
 3. Or, He is the Son of God, who’s every claim is totally true
- For thousands of years, Jesus Christ has literally changed the lives of people that have looked to Him

PSALM 23:4(NKJV) Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me, Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me

- Darkness can not be created, it’s just the absence of light, like cold is the absence of heat. Darkness has no substance in itself. It’s caused by something blocking light
- God is light right? But we needn’t be afraid of the dark because God is there too:

EXODUS 20:21(NKJV) So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was

- Even at the moment of Jesus’ greatest need, when it seems that the devil had won, God was right there with Jesus:

MATTHEW 27:45-46(NLTSE) At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o’clock. At about three o’clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” which means “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me

- It might well appear as if God has abandoned South Africa, when we consider the darkness surrounding us. But God is there in the darkness too, if we seek Him
- Practically, how does one “look to Jesus”? This involves two things:

1. Sincerely(diligently) seek Him

HEBREWS 11:6(NLTSE) And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek him

2. Give up worrying

1 PETER 5:7(NLTSE) Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you

- If necessary, God will strip us of anything and everything else we could rely on, just so that we can learn to trust Him alone: “strip off every weight that slows us down”

CARE GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Why are people afraid of the dark? Where do you think this fear stems from?

2. What do you understand by the term: “keeping your eyes on Jesus”? (see Hebrews 12:2)
3. What attitude should we have, during these dark times in South Africa?
4. How can we encourage others to look to Jesus in difficulties?