

Have You Seen the Lord?

Sunday, May 1st 1988

Job 42:5-6

“I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

I have a question for you today and that question is, “HAVE YOU SEEN THE LORD?” Jacob describing his experience at Bethel said this, *“I’ve seen the Lord; this indeed is the House of God. I have seen the Lord.”* The Hymn writer put it this way,

I’ve been to Calvary
I can say, I’ve seen the Lord.
I’ve been to Calvary
Through the witness of the Word.

The Hymn writer describes how he seen the Lord, “Through the witness of His Word,” he says in the song “I’ve seen the Lord.” Listen to Job in my text. This text is found in Job 42:5 and 6. Job said, *“Lord; I’ve heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now mine eye seeth Thee: Wherefore, I abhor myself and I repent in dust and ashes.”*

I am especially interested in what Job had to say here. I want us to examine very carefully each phrase, and each statement of His Words, in these two verses. The first thing God said about Job was this, “Job was a religious man; he was a righteous man who hated sin and avoided sin and evil. He commended him even to Satan.”

Something happened here in the Book of Job, Chapter 42. Something different, something exceptional and something outstanding happened to this man (I don’t know what it was; I can’t explain it). I want us to look at what he says. Do you want me to tell you when Job was saved? I am not going to do it. I am going to tell you something that happened to him here, according to his own testimony.

Here is what Job said first, *“I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear.”* Now, very few people on the face of this earth have not heard of God. That’s right! You can travel anywhere you want to and ask anybody that you want.

You may say, "Have you ever heard of God?" They will say, "Oh yea, yea, yea; I have heard of God." Even in Russia, they have heard of God. In Yugoslavia, they have heard of God and in Australia, they have heard of God, also Africa. Everybody has heard of God because God speaks to us about Himself in creation.

One of the Psalms says, "*There is not a tongue, a language in which God's voice is not heard.*" I'm talking about the things that God has made. There is not a language on earth in which God's voice is not heard. It says in Romans 1:19, "*Because that which may be known of God is manifest even to the heathen, for God has shown it to them: For the things of God are clearly revealed, clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made.*"

So, Job says; "*I have heard of You Lord.*" He heard the voice of creation just like you and I have heard the voice of creation. I have heard of God. There is not a language in which His voice is not heard.

Then, God speaks to us by His Law. When He thundered that Law at Sinai it echoed throughout the whole earth. Through out the whole earth, we have heard God speak in His Law. "*What the Law saith, it saith to everyone born under the Law.*"

But, the Law is not only written on stone and the voice of God was not only heard from the mountain, but Almighty God's Law is written on men's hearts. Did you know that? It is written on their conscience.

All of our lives we have heard about the conscience. Do you know what the conscience is? It is simply, the Law written on the heart. That's right! Romans 2:14-15 says, "*For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the meanwhile accusing or else excusing one another.*" In other words, when they respond, when they do by nature what the law commands them to do or not to do, this shows the Law of God written on their hearts, their conscience bearing witness.

You can't deny that. I just read it to you out of God's Word. "*The Law is written on the heart.*" I have heard of God! My conscience has told me about you God. My conscience has told me about your law. I don't know a whole lot about you, but I do know that I have heard that voice; they call it "that still small voice," the conscience.

“God has spoken to us by the prophets.” From the beginning, God has not left Himself without a witness. God has been pleased to send prophet after prophet into this world. Hebrews Chapter 1:1 says, *“God; who at sundry times and divers manners spake to our fathers.”* How did He speak to them? He spoke to them by the prophets. God has spoken to us by them.

When Job said, *“I have heard of You,”* he had heard of God. You and I have heard of Him too. Almost every son of Adam has heard of God. I say, almost, because I want to leave room for some margin of error. Most every man has heard of God.

Not only that, *“God has spoken to us by His Son. Jesus Christ came into this world.”* Only a fool or a man with no mind at all could deny that fact. *“He came into this world.”* Hebrews 1:1-2 says, *“God, who at sundry times and divers manners, spake to our fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken to us by His Son.”* I have heard of the Lord! I have heard of God through Jesus Christ.

In the Word, it says; *“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.”* God said from heaven, *“This is My Beloved Son; hear Him.”* We have heard Him.

Men despised Him and rejected Him. They spit upon Him and nailed Him to a cross. They would not have this man reign over them, but they heard Him. I will tell you this; this is a little jewel for you to remember all the days of your life. God not only holds you responsible for what you heard, but what you could have heard and wouldn't hear. Don't ever forget that, what you could have heard and wouldn't hear what you could have read and wouldn't read. God is going to hold you responsible.

There are so many other ways that we have heard of God. At the birth of Christ, the angels spake and said, *“Unto you is born, this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, Christ the Lord.”* The angels came from heaven and brought that message to men.

Then, at His baptism, God spake from heaven and said, *“This is My Son in whom I am well pleased.”* At the glorification of Christ on the mountain, God spake again, *“This is My Son.”* God, I have heard of you!

At His resurrection, the angels stood outside the empty tomb and they said, *“He is not here; He is risen.”* At His ascension the same angels stood and said this, *“This same Jesus who is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as you see Him go.”* We have heard of Him!

God has spoken to us by His Word. There is scarcely a home in America; there is scarcely a motel room, scarcely a prison cell, or a hospital room in which there is not a Bible. The Bible has been translated in over 900 languages. His Word is preached. I know it is not preached very well; I know that, but it has been preached.

The Word is preached out of contention, competition and every other way. It is preached by some who love it, and by some who don't love it. Some are trying to prosper through it, and there are some who want the glory of God to prosper through it, but it is preached. The Word is preached and the Word is read.

We are without excuse and we will have to say with Job, "*Lord; I have heard of you.*" There is not a one of you out there, not a single person listening to my voice that can't say with Job; "*Lord, I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear.*"

I will tell you this, I might add, and this is found in each of those Scriptures that I read, "*They are without excuse.*" I'm talking about the creation, God speaking through creation and God speaking through our conscience and God speaking through Laws. So then, "*They are without excuse.*" I have heard of Him!

Now, Job speaks of a different revelation other than the hearing of the ear. He speaks of a whole new experience. This man must have been up in years. He had ten grown children. He was a wealthy man of influence, power, and prestige. He was a man of whom God said, "*He is a righteous man.*"

Here, this man speaks of a new experience, a different revelation. He said, "*But now, mine eye seeth Thee.*" I have heard of you.

All that most religious people can say is, "I've heard of Him." They don't know Him, but they have heard of Him. They haven't seen Him, but they have heard of Him. Most everyone has heard of God. "*Dost thou believe that there is one God?*" James says, "*Dost Thou believe in one God; thou doest well?*" The devil has that much sense. He has that much revelation. "*The devil believes and trembles in fear.*" He believes that there is one God.

There are some who have seen the Lord with anointed eyes of faith. Read this Scripture with me in John 6:40. Our Lord prior to this in verse 37 says, "*All that My Father giveth Me shall come to Me and him that cometh to Me, I shall in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven not to do My own will, but the will of Him that sent Me. This is the Father's will which has sent Me, that of all which He hath given Me; I will lose nothing but raise it up again at the last day.*"

Watch this next verse: *“And this is the will of Him that sent Me that everyone that seeth the Son and believeth on Him may have everlasting life.”* This is what I am talking about. This is what I am preaching about. I am not preaching about Divine purpose; I am not preaching about Divine election; and I’m not preaching about Divine providence. I am not preaching about God’s Divine choice. Christ has already spoken about that.

He says, “These same people that the Father gave Me, (for whom I came to redeem), they are going to see Me.” They will come. *“This is the will of Him that sent Me.”* I’m talking about the same will and He is speaking to the same people, *“That everyone that seeth the Son and believeth on Him may have everlasting life.”* I say this, you can’t believe on Him unless you have seen Him.

Simeon saw Him. This old man was the one who ministered about the temple to whom the Holy Spirit revealed that he would not see death until he had seen the Lord’s Christ. They brought the baby Jesus into that temple. The old man took Him up in his arms, lifted his eyes to heaven, and said, *“Now Lord, let thy servant depart in peace according to Thy Word; mine eyes have seen Thy salvation.”*

He wasn’t looking at a vision, some kind of dream or revelation. He wasn’t even looking at a cross. He wasn’t even looking at a dying figure on a Roman tree. He was looking at a small baby just handed him by a young Jewish maiden. He said, *“I have seen the Lord and Thy salvation.”*

Thomas saw the Lord. Do you remember Thomas’ words when they told him, *“The Lord’s risen?”* He said, “I don’t believe it; I won’t believe it unless I touch the nail prints in His hands and put my hand in His side.” Then our Lord appeared to them. Thomas was present then. The Lord said, *“Thomas; reach hither thy hand and behold my hands and my side: Be not faithless but believe.”*

Thomas fell on his face. I don’t believe that he even reached out. I don’t even believe that he touched those scars. He fell down on his face and looked up at Christ and said, *“My Lord and My God; I have seen the Lord. (I’m conquered and I am broken); I have seen the Lord.”*

Peter saw Him. Our Lord said, *“Whom do you say that I am?”* He said, *“Thou art the Christ the Son of the Living God. I believe; I’m sure that you are the Son of the Living God.”*

The thief saw Him. Yes he did! The thief on the cross was cursing, swearing, and speaking harshly against Christ. He was just like that other fellow. He changed his tune. Right in the middle of that he stopped and looked at that other thief and said, *“Don’t you fear God, seeing that we are in the same condemnation?”*

Where did he get that information? *“He saw the Lord.”* He saw Christ in His true glory and character. He saw a King on that cross. Everybody else saw a criminal. Everybody else saw a defeated Reformer. Everybody else saw a religious Martyr. This thief, *“He saw the Lord.”* He saw the King hanging there on that cross. He said, *“Lord; you are not going to stay dead; you are coming into a Kingdom, because You are a King. You remember me.”* He saw something!

Have you seen the Lord? I’m not talking about a vision. I don’t have any use for these folks who are always talking about seeing a vision, seeing a dream or waking up in the night and seeing lights flashing in the room. I’m not talking about some physical revelation of Christ. That is too much watermelon before bedtime. That is too much pizza before bedtime, you know.

Our Lord speaks through His Word and reveals Himself through His Word. Don’t ever think that just because you haven’t had one of those visions that you haven’t had a spiritual experience. You seek Christ in the Word. I’m going to show you that in a moment. The Lord Jesus is revealed in the Word, and is seen by faith.

How is it that you can see Christ by faith? How did Job see the Lord? How do we see the Lord? Well, first of all, when you say, “I’ve seen the Lord,” this is to see Him in His Deity. I believe I can say that, “I’ve seen the Lord.” This is to see Him in His Eternal Glory.

Do you know when He prayed in John 17, He said; *“Father, glorify Me with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.”* Our Lord Jesus Christ is not an Ambassador or a Messenger only; He is God. I wish I could make that as clear as I would like to make it.

I feel so unworthy to speak of this great union of God and man, God in human flesh. *“The Word was made flesh.”* God became a man. God condescended to come down here and take upon Himself bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh.

You say, “How can God become a man?” I do not know; I can’t answer that. I don’t know how God can make a world out of nothing, but I believe it; I see it and I am

standing on it. I don't know how God can make the sun come up every morning exactly on time. I don't know how God can make it go down exactly on time. I don't know how God continuously keeps the stars from running into each other, even with all of the millions and billions of stars that there are. I don't know how God can make so many people and each one look different. There aren't even two snowflakes alike. I don't understand that.

"Great is the mystery of Godliness. God was manifested in human flesh." How do you expect me to explain that? I just believe it. I have seen Him in His Eternal Glory and in His Eternal Deity. I have seen Him in His Sovereignty. There is nothing that He cannot do. I believe that He can do all things. Job said, *"I know that You can do all things."*

Old Nebuchadnezzar said, *"He rules in heaven and upon the earth and giveth it to whomsoever He will."* Christ said, *"All authority is given unto Me in heaven and earth."* I have seen Him. I have seen Him in His Sovereignty, in His power, in His glory, in His Deity, in His Greatness, in His eternal Surety. I have seen Him!

I have seen Him in the Scriptures. Every time I open the Scriptures, I see Christ. I see Him yonder in the wilderness, as the Rock that followed them. I see in the wilderness the Brazen Serpent lifted up. I see Him as the blood was splattered on the doors of Egypt. I see Him as the Bread, which falls from heaven. I see Him as the Rock giving forth the water. I see Him when the Old Testament priest went under the veil. I see Him when the blood flows over that mercy seat and drips down over the broken law. I see Him!

I see Him as the incense, which ascends to heaven. I see Him as the Shechaniah glory between the cherubim. I see Him in the Table of Shewbread. I see the lamp and the candlesticks. I see Him in the altar. I see Him in the baptismal waters. I see Him as the Bread Who is broken at the Lord's Table. I see Him in the Scriptures.

I see Him in His incarnation. This is what Simeon saw. God became a Baby. *"He who made woman, was made of a woman."* He who made the streams of water, cried; *"I thirst."* He who grew that tree, from which they made that cross, was nailed to that cross. He who put the iron ore in the ground from which they made those nails that they drove into His hands, hung on that cross; He who was pinned to that tree (which He grew) by those nails which He made. He was dying for a people that He chose, and shed blood for those that He assumed. He bore sins that He didn't commit. I have seen Him!

I have seen Him in His active obedience. He went about doing good. *"He was tempted in all points; yet, He knew no sin."* I've seen Him! I see Him walking out there on that

Judean hillside. I have seen Him when men hated Him. He didn't hate them back. I've seen when men cursed Him and He didn't curse them back.

When the Father put the load upon Him, He bore it willingly. I've seen Him when He was the greatest presence in the universe and yet, *"Humbled Himself and became as a servant."* I have seen Him in His perfect humility. I see Him, as He loves His enemies. He loves them enough to die for them. Oh, what holiness, what active holiness, what unspeakable holiness, what unsearchable righteousness is My Lord and My God.

I see Him in His redemptive work. Isaiah saw Him; *"He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him; by His stripes we are healed."*

Abraham saw Him. That far back, he saw Christ. *"Abraham saw My day,"* Christ said; *and He was glad.* Moses saw Him. Moses sat down and wrote about it and what he saw. Paul saw Him; *"He who knew no sin, was made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."*

I've seen Him on the cross. I've seen them take His body and lay it in the tomb like they will lay mine someday. But, that Sunday morning, the stone was rolled away. The angels said, *"Why are you looking for the living among the dead for; He's not here."* I see Him risen and I see Him at the right hand of God. The Scripture says, *"Seeing that we have such a great High Priest, let us come boldly before the throne of grace that we may find mercy and grace to help in time of need."*

Job, I know what you are talking about. I know exactly what you are talking about. I've heard Him. I heard of Him from my parents when I was a little boy. I heard of Him from my Sunday school teachers. They didn't do much good.

I heard of Him in the songs. I heard of Him in the Scriptures. I heard Him in the winds and in the waves when I was in the Navy. I heard Him. I heard of His Majesty, His Greatness, and His Power. One day in the Gospel, I saw the Lord. I saw Him in His redemptive character, and His redemptive grace, and His redemptive work. I have seen the Lord!

Well, when Job saw the Lord, what else did He see? Let's see what he said, he said; *"I've heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now, mine eye seeth Thee."* Oh, something happened, now, *"Mine eye seeth Thee, wherefore, I hate myself, and I repent."* He doesn't see the preacher; he sees Him, the Lord.

When Isaiah saw the Lord, Isaiah said; *“I saw the Lord High and lifted up. His train filled the temple. The Cherubim and Seraphim cried; Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty, and then I cried; Woe is me; I am undone; I’m cut off; mine eyes have seen the Lord.”*

I can give you some evidence by which you can determine if you have really seen the Lord, besides these Scriptures and these other things. If you have ever seen the Lord in His Glory, Majesty, Might, and Holiness, you’ve been made to see your guilt, shame, and sin as never before. You have been stripped, broken, slain, and humbled at His feet or you have never seen the Lord. I don’t care who you are. That’s right!

This, “I’m ok, you’re ok” doesn’t go with those people who have seen the Lord. My positive mental attitude will get me through every trial of life, but not when you have seen the Lord. People say, “Well, I’m just as good as anybody else.” You aren’t when you see the Lord. “Well; I’ll have you know that I’m not a bad fellow.” You haven’t seen the Lord.

Everybody who sees the Lord cries, *“I abhor myself.”* I know that it is contrary to what some of these sissified preachers say about positive, mental attitude and all of these other things. I’m reading from the Word of God.

Job said, *“I’ve seen the Lord, wherefore, I hate myself.”* You see, listen to me; God Himself is the only true measure of holiness. *“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”* Have we come short of the church standard, of the written law, of our constitution? Have we come short of our profession of faith? No sir, *“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”*

That is the measure of holiness and sin too. *“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”* Job said, *“I’ve seen the Lord.”* Before that, before he saw the Lord, he was boasting a whole lot of his righteousness. He was boasting a whole lot of what he had done and what he hadn’t done. Once he saw the Lord, he said, *“I put my hand on my mouth; I have spoken things too wonderful for me; I’m not going to speak anymore. I hate myself; I repent.”*

You see, God’s perfect glory reveals our shame. God’s perfect love reveals our selfishness. You can’t seek perfect love without seeing that you are imperfect in love. God’s perfect humility reveals my pride.

I can compare myself with others, with some of you, or you with me. We come off looking pretty good because all of us are proud worms. When we see God’s true

humility and true mercy, it shows us in our true light. We are proud, arrogant and a self-righteous people.

His holiness, His immaculate holiness before which *“Even the cherubim and seraphim cover their faces,”* before Him. Even Moses couldn’t look on Him. His Holiness reveals our sin. You don’t know what holiness is, and I don’t either.

There are so many people that call themselves, “Holiness.” They are talking about an outward form, not an inward godliness. His submission reveals our rebellion. His grace reveals our malice. To see God in His holiness is to see myself in my sin.

Watch this in Job 33, *“He looked upon men and if any can say; I have sinned and perverted that which is right and it profiteth me not, He will deliver his soul from going down to the pit and his life shall see the light.”*

Have you ever said that; “I have sinned?” *“God be merciful to me a sinner.”* He will and He may reveal Christ to you. That is my prayer that He will reveal Christ and you will be able to say, *“I’ve seen the Lord.”*