HOW ARE YOUR EYES? Mt 13:17-17

I. SOME WERE SPIRITUALLY BLIND:

1. Spiritual blindness ascribed:
   (1) to watchmen who failed—Isa 56:10
   (2) to deceitful false teachers as Pharisees—Mt 23:15
   (3) to those who wilfully reject the truth—2 Cor. 4:14

2. Each year in America and Canada, over 30,000 people go blind.
   How many go spiritually blind each year?

3. Spiritually, one can see and perceive not—Isa 6:9:
   (1) Because of prejudice:
      Jewish leaders said Christ, but did not perceive Him,
      his mission or nature of his Kingdom—John 1:11
      Today: "Too narrow" Water Salvation" Only ones saved
   (2) Because of tradition: Mt 15:9
      Today: "What parents believe is good enough for me"
      Many blindly follow customs and traditions of ancestors.

II. THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF EYES "OUT OF FOCUS"

1. This serious problem in both physical and spiritual sense.
   Causes man to confuse immediate advantage with eternal values—2 Cor 4:18
   Confuses human attainment with divine attestation.
   Confuses matters of faith with matters of opinion.
   "Look at the good it does", replaces Bible authority.
   But, we are to walk by faith—2 Cor 5:17, not by sight.

2. Properly focused eyes set affections on things above Col 3:2
   Look for that city "four-square"—2 Cor 5:1
   Can see "after off"—adding grace—2 Pet 1:9
   These form a ladder, the higher one climbs the farther
   he is able to see.

III. JESUS SPOKE OF SOME WHO HAVE AN "EVIL EYE"

1. Lexicon defines evil as "in a bad condition"
   Of, lady who criticized neighbor's dirty wash learned that
   dirt was on her own window—Mt 7:1-2
   Evil eye is full of darkness—Mt 6:22
   Application is to serving two masters (v. 24) and a
   singleness of service—(v. 22)
   Diseased eye must be "plucked out"—Mt 18:9
   Not physical, physical operation will not cure evil eye.

IV. SCRIPTURES SPEAK OF THE DOWNAST EYE:

1. The one who knows sorrow (and who doesn't) but refused to
   look up for help. Some even blame God for their sorrow.
   Peter walked on water until he looked down—Mt 14:25-30
   Ps 121:1—"Look up" Heb 12:1-2—eyes on Jesus

V. SCRIPTURES SPEAK OF LUSTFUL EYES:

1. How true in our time: (Advertisers capitalize on it)
   "The girls that girl watchers watch drink Diet Pepsi.......
   2. Man love to have it so, and women do all they can to promote
   3. "How should a Christian dress?"
      The dress will be right when the heart is right.
      1 Tim 2:9—Modest—orderly.
   4. Woman used to dress like Old Mother Hubbard, now they dress
      like her cupboard!!
   5. Blake Starr, queen of the burlesque said: "Relaxed attitudes
      on nudity, sex movies and pornography are killing burlesque
      If they get much filthier, I'm out of business"
   6. Peter said some "have eyes full of adultery—2 Pet 2:13-14
      Can't see anything by illicit deeds, lust
   7. John warns that lust of eyes is one of avenues of sin—2 Jn 2:17
      With Eve, it was the forbidden fruit—Gen 3:6
      With David, it was Bathsheba—2 Sam. 11:2-5
      With Simon, it was power of Holy Spirit—Acts 8:18-19
   8. How are your eyes?—Do they see lust?

VI. THERE ARE ALSO DELIBERATELY CLOSED EYES:

1. Jesus wept—Jerusalem refused his words Lk 19:41-42
2. Sadly, the same is true in our time.
   Some closed because of laziness, no effort—Acts 17:11
   Some closed because they fear they might learn truth
   Other because of indifference; just didn't care.
   3. Even Christians become guilty here:
      Close eyes to the unseaved; those in sorrow, etc.

CONCLUSION (THE CURE):

1. Church at Laodice was, among other things, blind Rev 3:17
2. Told to anoint her eyes with Spirit given "eye salve"
3. Are you in darkness? Word of God will open eyes—Eph 1:18
4. Admit your blindness; obey the word.
5. Obey God and be the "Apple of His eye" Ps 17:8