

## Love Where You Live Week 4 – Do You See Life?

Pastor Jon

Acts 20:7-12

“On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight. 8 There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. 9 And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. 10 But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, ‘*Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.*’ 11 And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. 12 And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.”(Acts 20:7-12 ESV)

Pastor Jon shared an illustration about these new glasses that help people with color blindness see in color for the first time. The videos of people trying on the glasses for the first time are packed with emotion and hope, as people finally see their world in color! Because of Jesus, life, death, and resurrection, and the Holy Spirit’s power in our lives, we have the ability to see in color. We see the world in a way that our neighbors don’t.

***What is one way that the Holy Spirit has affected your ‘sight’?***

On Paul’s third missionary journey he stopped in the town of Troas, where he preached this sermon, beginning around dinner time and going long into the night. Because of the length of the sermon, the young man, Eutychus, fell asleep and then fell from the third story. Everybody there thought he was dead, but Paul got close to him and saw life, saying that key phrase, “Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.” As followers of Jesus, we are called to be people who see life where everyone else sees death.

***What is one area of your life where it seems easy to see death (i.e. only problems and difficulties), and difficult to see life?***

Pastor Jon pointed out two things that we must overcome in order to see life:

### **1. Unmet Expectations**

Neither Eutychus nor Paul received their expected outcome in this situation. Surely Paul didn’t expect to ‘preach a young man to death’! Neither did Eutychus, expect to fall out of the window. Whether we realize it or not, we carry expectations into our situations and relationships. When life doesn’t meet our expectations, we feel disappointed. When we are disappointed we should

ask ourselves, what am I ultimately looking to for the satisfaction of my desires? See, oftentimes our expectations have deeper expectations beneath them. Ultimately, Jesus satisfies all of those deep expectations.

*When is a recent time where you have been disappointed?*

*What were you expecting in that situation?*

*What expectation might have been underneath that expectation?*

## **2. Heart Inertia**

Inertia is the tendency for an object to remain unchanged. If you are driving 25 miles per hour, your tendency will be to remain at that speed until another force acts on you. While helpful in physics, inertia can negatively affect our hearts. We can have the tendency to look the other way or pretend not to notice the ‘death’ in our city because if we don’t notice something it cannot change our hearts. In this story, Paul got extremely, uncomfortably close to the young man in order to see the life in him. In order to see life we must be willing to overcome fear, shame, and control and enter committed, vulnerable relationships. Because of heart inertia, this will not be our default tendency.

*What if you did one thing every day that you didn’t want to do?*

## **New Perspective**

While others saw a dead man, Paul saw a man who was going to have an amazing story to tell the next day! Nothing was different about Paul and the others save for their perspective. Paul had the eyes of his heart enlightened.

*Read Ephesians 1:15-21. What sticks out?*

Paul was able to love well in Troas because he had the perspective of Christ. As we see Jesus, we begin to see like Jesus sees. We begin to see ourselves and others the way that Jesus sees us. We can love where we live when we see the life in where we live.

*In that area of your life where you tend to see death, what do you think Jesus sees?*