

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

June 22, 2025

Blind While Seeing

How can a person literally see the truth and deny it at the same time? Let me provide you with some Biblical examples. Every day, worshippers at the temple in Jerusalem would pass a man they knew was born blind. When Jesus healed him, the leaders would so doubt that he was born blind that they would call his parents to investigate the truth they already knew (John 9). Jesus turned this around when He told the Pharisees, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, we see, your sin remains.” (John 9:38-41)

The man on the road to Jericho (Mark 10:46), when he heard that Jesus was passing by, repeatedly cried out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.” He accepted Christ’s humanity and believed Christ to be the true Messiah, God’s promise through David (Jeremiah 23:1, 5). He was their true King. There were so many people pressing against Jesus, including the disciples, that would in the very near future deny Christ or say “crucify Him,” but this man, while being blind, saw Christ for who He truly was and is.

Judas saw all the miracles Christ did, including Lazarus coming from the grave after four days (the Jews believed that after three days, there was no hope, probably why Mary was crying so hard). Judas heard all of Christ’s teachings, but Judas sold Christ for thirty pieces of silver. Even though Peter was exposed to all the same miracles, God had to open his eyes to know Christ as the Messiah (Matthew 16:13-20). The Pharisees were no different as Christ would say, “Woe to you, blind guides....,” even calling them “You fools and blind men.” (Matthew 23:16-22) These are men who spent all day studying the scriptures, and even though they knew who Jesus was (John 5:39-40), they still crucified Him.

Several eyewitnesses were sent to the disciples after Christ’s resurrection: Mary Magdalene, the disciples on the road to Emmaus, Peter, and John saw the empty tomb and still did not believe that Christ had risen from the dead (Mark 16:9-14). Thomas had to be convinced by Christ, allowing him to touch Him (John 20:24-28). How can they see but be blind?

We must “walk in the Light to be in the Light.” (1 John 1:5-7) Christ is the Light and the Word (John 1:1-10). It is practicing the Word of God, growing in Christ so that we develop His nature in us that because of our spiritual growth, the Holy Spirit, our illuminator, illuminates our minds to grow from blindness to Light (1 Corinthians 2; 2 Peter 1:3-11). He can transform us, so we become “salt and light.” (Matthew 5:13-16)

Don’t allow Satan to trick you into thinking you are seeing. Let God be your Optometrist. Allow Him to determine the health of your sight.



UPCOMING Events



LEADERSHIP RETREAT — JULY 23-26
LWFC Staff, Deacons, Elders (and your spouses) and Ministry Coordinators, please register for the Leadership Retreat by June 22nd. Please contact Pastor Lawrence at dlawrence@lwfellowshipchurch.org for more information.



BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE
We are now accepting school supplies and backpacks for back-to-school. This year we are partnering to give 50 backpacks to 3 schools in our community; Highland Heights Elementary, Garcia Middle School, and Eisenhower High School. For more information please contact Keron Brown at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



All 2025 high school and college graduates, please wear your graduation cap and tassel to our one service at 9:30AM. We would love to recognize all graduates at one time. Please submit your first & last name, graduation photo, high school, college/university you graduated from or attending to marketinglwfc@gmail.com no later than Thursday June 26. For information, please contact marketinglwfc@gmail.com



CONGRATS CLASS OF 2025
To celebrate all graduates, we are asking that all graduating high school and college seniors. Please submit a picture, along with your first and last name, school attended, and degree area (for college graduates only). Please send all details and questions to marketinglwfc@gmail.com



NOW HIRING SUMMER CAMP COUNSELORS!
Are you a college student, recent college graduate, or looking for a summer job? ABC Academy is looking to hire Summer Camp Counselors. If you’re interested, please contact Mrs. White at (281) 445-9673 or request an interview online.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Announcements
- Opening Song
- Communion
- Welcome Video
- Praise & Worship
- Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

- Visitor’s Welcome
- Special Music
- “Beyond Doubt”
- Mark 16:9-14

Click “Sermon Notes” on the Website

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children’s wing.
Infants—6th grade



Beyond Doubt
Mark 16:9-14

A. True or False (vs. 9-11):

- 1. When Christ rose from the grave, He did so with an agenda. His appearance was first to someone whose faith kept her looking for Him. Those whose faith had failed were nowhere to be found, even though He told them numerous times that He would rise again. He repeated this message many times, and even His enemies knew what He said.
- 2. Mary spoke to the disciples with a full conviction that the person she saw was Jesus. To report means sharing one’s faith with others.
- 3. The disciples were continually experiencing depressing grief because of the way they behaved during Christ’s arrest and crucifixion (“is not to grieving or mourning for the dead but rather sadness and grief because of wickedness and oppression.”).
- 4. Believing what we choose to believe can put us in a hopeless state when what we believe does not come through.
- 5. The disciples clearly understood that Mary vividly saw Christ. Mary explained, with careful deliberation and with specific details, what she saw when she encountered Christ.
- 6. The disciples clearly understood what Mary was saying, but they deliberately chose to reject her words. They were faithless. This could also be because, culturally, they did not consider women’s testimony credible.

B. Truth Affirmed (vs. 12-13):

- 1. Jesus revealed Himself clearly, by an act of divine revelation (Lk. 24:13-35), to disciples on the road to Emmaus. Again, He has to open his eyes.
- 2. Jesus appeared with special features that were different than He appeared to anyone else.
- 3. Two witnesses confirm facts (Deut. 17:6).
- 4. The two witnesses who were on the road to Emmaus were utterly convinced that Christ had risen from the dead. Their faith was steadfast when they decided to share with others.
- 5. The disciples refused to develop a deep conviction that Christ rose from the dead. They lack absolute confidence that He is alive.

C. Accept the Evidence (v. 14):

- 1. Jesus revealed Himself, by an act of divine revelation, to disciples who were no longer weeping because they were now eating.
- 2. Jesus came after they were determined not to listen. He totally exposed their will.
- 3. Jesus once and for all scolded (reprimanded, rebuked, despised) the disciples. Remember that Peter went to the tomb and did not see Christ lying there (John 20:6-10).
- 4. The disciples had every opportunity to gather the facts presented to them (two witnesses; Deut. 17:6) and believe that Christ’s words were true when He told them He would rise from the dead. They, however, demonstrated a total lack of confidence in what the eyewitnesses said or what Peter saw when he went to the tomb.
- 5. Instead of the disciples becoming excited about the news that Christ was raised from the dead, they were determined to hold to their conviction that Christ was dead (Their eyes are shut while seeing – false doctrine). No matter what anyone said to them, they were obstinate (inflexible, pig-headed, adamant, headstrong), unmoved by any testimony presented to them.
- 6. The disciples refused to develop a deep conviction that Christ rose from the dead. They lack absolute confidence that He is alive. They refused to accept anything about Christ’s words concerning the resurrection or eyewitness accounts that were taught to them. They were very deliberate about not developing a deep commitment to the facts presented by eyewitnesses.
- 7. The evidence demanded complete trust, with no room for doubt (1 Corinthians 15:3-11).
- 8. Salvation is a total conviction of the heart for a surrendered life (Romans 10:9).
- 9. Faith is activated when we accept the evidence (Heb. 11:3; 12:1-2 – Crowd of witnesses). This is when our lives are transformed from hard hearts to a spiritually maturing process that works out our sanctification, empowering us to grow from the flesh to the Spirit, and enjoying all the Spirit’s fruit (Gal. 5:22-25).



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Michelle Stewart & family, Maryland Flax & family, and Reginald and Dean’na Mitchell & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Diana Doyle, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Jessie Austin, Evelyn Harvey, Shinell Clark, Elsie Starks, Sandra Phillips, Ruth Cranford, Eugene Reese, Donna Ross, and Sylvia Edwards.



MARK 16 : 9-14