

# LIFT UP YOUR EYES

- I. John 4:35-43, "*Lift up your eyes and look*" *theaomai* {*theh-ah'-om-ahee*} "which means to view attentively, to learn by looking, to see with the eyes, to perceive.

**A. It means to see the sag in the shoulders, to see the pain in the eyes, or the desperation in their actions.**

1. Jesus is admonishing His disciples to see the harvest differently. He saw it as bring ripe for the picking.

**a. What Jesus saw drew Him, what the pharisees saw repulsed them.**

b. What others saw as closed hearts, Jesus saw as opened hearts.

2. **This statement comes after He successfully harvests a soul that everyone else would have missed.**

3. Think of it:

- **Of all the places to find a hungry heart - Samaria**
- Of all the Samaritans to be searching for God - a woman.
- **Of all the women - a five time divorcee.**
- She was an outcasts of outcasts.

**B. Not only was it amazing that someone like her was open to the gospel. But that Jesus was able to detect it.**

1. Others would have seen a promiscuous samaritan woman - Jesus saw the firstfruits of a great harvest.

**2. Others would have only gave her criticism - Jesus gave her a chance.**

3. Others saw her as she was - Jesus saw how she was intended to be.

**4. Others saw only her promiscuity - Jesus saw her promise.**

5. Others saw only her problems - Jesus saw her potential.

**6. Others would have seen only trash - Jesus saw a treasure**

a. He took a life that was drifting and gave it direction.

**b. He took a life that no one could use and used it like no one can.**

c. The Lord always brought the message to the worthless and then He always used the worthless to bring the message.

C. After converting her, He released her to go back and do the same for others.

**1. He got her involved in mission**

- a. No one was surprised when she told people she had met a man.
- b. She was the most strategic person in that city.**
- c. The Lord didn't take her out of her network of relationships.

**2. God has always used the common for the spectacular.**

- He took an ordinary rod stretched it and parted a sea
- **He took a common pebble flung it and slayed a giant**
- He took a peasant boys lunch blessed it and feed a multitude.
- **He took some dirt spit on it and healed a blind man.**
- He took a rejected promiscuous woman spoke kindly to her and brought revival to a whole city.
  
- **The Lord is able to turn a stick into a scepter, a stone into a missile, a sack lunch into a feast, some saliva and dirt into a balm for the blind, and a immoral woman into an evangelist.**
  
- If He can use sticks, stones, and dirt. He can use you

**D. I Samuel 16:7 - a key phrase-For God see's not as man see's.**

- 1. Where is God's focus. Is it on how people are or how they could be.
- 2. **2 Corinthians 5:16 - "This means that our knowledge of men can no longer be based on their outward lives." (J.B. Phillips)**
  - a. Judge a man by his clothes - ET
  - b. Book by it's cover. - Wino**
  - c. Contents by it's package. - Wolfman
- 3. **We need to look past how people are and see what they could be.**
  - a. A lion carver      b. My grandmother
- 4. **It's not that the Lord doesn't care about their form or flesh.**
  - a. He just knows that if we can tap into who they really are - it will deal with who they think we are.
  - b. Another way of saying it is "the only way to deal with what I see, is to help them become what God see's.**

In Conclusion: Tell the story of Little Annie.