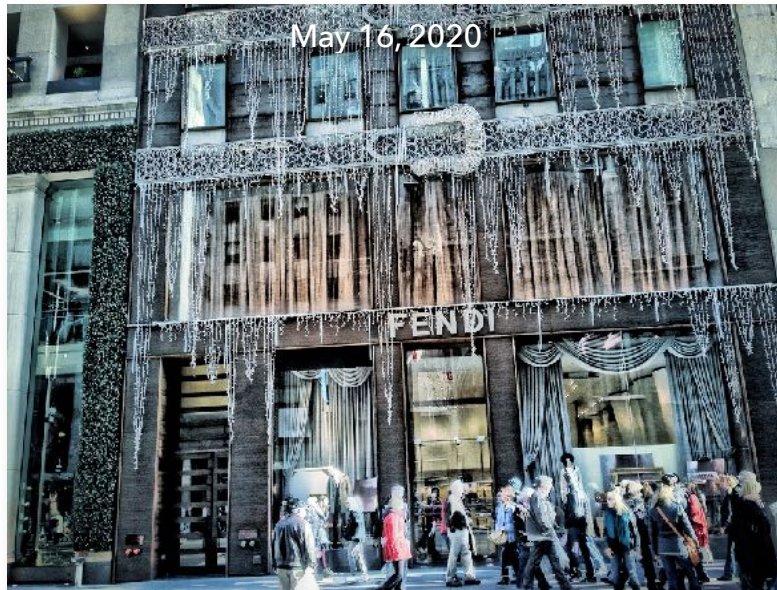


Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13



New York City, December, 2011. What do you “see”?

“Be Sure to See What You Are Looking At”

Several years ago, I went for a routine eye exam (in pre-Brady days). The optometrist kept looking at the results with a puzzled look on her face. Finally, she said, “Hmmm... your eyesight is better than it was the last time I saw you.”

I’m thinking, “Alright!... my hair is thinning and I’ve lost a step or five on the tennis court — but at least my eyesight is improving! OK, give me the bill, I’m outa here with a new lease on my eyesight.”

Not so fast. The doctor said, “we need to do a few more tests. Sometimes, a tumor can cause a reshaping of the eyeball which actually... All I really heard was “tumor.” My heart went from glee to gloom in two seconds. Sometimes, things aren’t as they seem at first glance. We need to look a little closer; a superficial view of a matter rarely pays dividends.

This is crucial in Bible study. The writer of Hebrews wants his audience to “see” better. He says “I have much to say and it is hard to explain since you have become dull of hearing” (5:11). Ouch! That reminds me of t-shirt I saw; it says, “I can explain it to you but I can’t understand it for you.”

“Seeing” is not about education. How many hi IQ people say, “I just don’t see it?” My father and my father-in-law were not “educated” men by today’s standards but they were two of the wisest men I have ever known. *Wisdom is seeing what you are looking at.* My mom didn’t like the way the kitchen was laid out in their house in San Jose. My dad looked at it, drew up a few plans and completely transformed it into something my mother loved. He saw what she was looking at.

Sam was a constant source of down-to-earth wisdom. I never heard him make a foolish comment. If he offered his opinion on something, he asked a clarifying question, paused a moment, then offered a pearl of wisdom that was impossible

to contradict. Sometimes, that frustrated me but he was helping me see what I was looking at. Sometimes I was wise enough to take his advice.

Wise teachers eschew obfuscation (I did that on purpose). Wise teachers help students see what they are looking at; their aim is never to make themselves look smarter. Their aim in Bible study is to get the truth, not to find something new. The wise teacher is more Berean (Acts 17:11) than Athenian (Acts 17:21). They never rely on pat answers and platitudes. Those can make us feel better because we can box up the answer and put a bow on it but it doesn’t move the argument forward and, frankly, can be kind of annoying. For example, to think that one can describe the wide and beautiful concept of “grace” with the pat answer, “unmerited favor” is kind of sad.

It was a photographer who said “be sure to see what you are looking at” and it made sense to me. When you *look* at a photo or artwork or beautiful scenery, what do you *see*? Practice “seeing” when you are looking — there may be more in a scene than meets the eye; more in a text... more in a person...

When you look at the *scriptures*, what do you see? More important, when you look at Jesus — what do you see? (John 5:29; 12:21)

Prayer: “God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory, please give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him having the eyes of my heart enlightened that I may know what is the hope to which he has called me, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.” *Ephesians 1:17-18*

Song: “Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6Au7Mx6L7Q>