

“JOHN SAW THE EYES”

(Message #3)

Text: Revelation 1:12-14
Subject: “Eyes As A Flame Of Fire”

Introduction

Question: Who has eyes as flames of fire?

Answer: It is Jesus!

Question: Who sees Jesus?

Answer: John, on the isle of Patmos

Question: What is Jesus doing?

Answer: He is standing in the midst of the church.

Question: What does Jesus look like?

- #1. He has the **robe of the High Priest**.
- #2. He has **hair, white as wool and snow**.
- #3. He has **eyes like fire**.
- #4. He has **feet like brass**.
- #5. He has a **voice like thundering waters**.
- #6. He has **hands to hold his servants**.
- #7. He has a **two-edged sword**.

#1. We saw the **Robe**

- ◆ How Jesus is full of strength and affection as our High Priest – to minister to people.

#2. We saw the **Hair white as snow**

- ◆ How Jesus is all wise and imparts wisdom to you and me.

#3. We see Jesus today with **Eyes as a flame of fire**

Question: What is the significance (or meaning) of Jesus with eyes as a flame of fire?

- #1. He has **Eyes!**
- #2. They are as **Fire!**

- #1. The eyes reveal His ability to see the innermost recesses of the heart. (And)
- #2. The fire reveals His ability to penetrate and consume anything that needs to be consumed.

(So Jesus Stands In The Midst Of The Church)

- ◆ His eyes can see everything, nothing escapes Him.
- ◆ His fire can consume anything that stands in the way of your progress.

(Is Fire That Important God?)

(Hear With Your Heart)

- ◆ “And the angel of the Lord appeared unto Moses in a flame of **fire** out of the midst of a bush” (Exodus 3:2)
- ◆ “The Lord descended upon Mount Sinai in **fire**” (Exodus 19:18)

- ◆ “And there went out **fire** from the Lord...” (Leviticus 10:2)
- ◆ “Everything that may abide the **fire**, ye shall make it go through the **fire**, and it shall be clean” (Numbers 31:23)
- ◆ “For the Lord thy God is a consuming **fire**, even a jealous God” (Deuteronomy 4:24)
- ◆ “Then the **fire** of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice” (I Kings 18:38)
- ◆ “David built an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the Lord, and the Lord answered David from heaven by **fire**” (I Chronicles 21:26)
- ◆ “God makes His servants a flaming **fire**” (Psalm 104:4)
- ◆ “The **fire** devours the stubble and the flame consumes the chaff” (Isaiah 5:24)
- ◆ “Walk in the light of your **fire**, and in the sparks that ye have kindled” (Isaiah 50:11)
- ◆ “The lead is consumed in the **fire**” (Jeremiah 6:29)
- ◆ “The Lord contends by **fire**” (Amos 7:4)

(In The New Testament)

- ◆ “Jesus shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with **fire**” (Matthew 3:11)
- ◆ “Everyone shall be salted with **fire**... have salt in yourselves” (Mark 9:49-50)
- ◆ “Everyone’s work shall be revealed by **fire**, and the **fire** shall try everyone’s work to see what sort it is” (I Corinthians 3:13)
- ◆ “Serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear, for our God is a consuming **fire**” (Hebrews 12:28,29)

Question: Why does Jesus reveal Himself to us as a Man of Fire?

Answer: Malachi 3 has the answer:

(Read Malachi 3:1-4)

Question: How many of you believe the Bible, that Jesus is coming again?

Question: Pastor, how does believing this affect the way I live?

(Malachi Shows Us In Verse 2)

Two Questions In Verse 2

Question #1: Who may abide the day of His coming?

Question #2: “And who shall stand when He appeareth?”

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Who will be prepared for the inspection day?
- ◆ Who will be ready for the close inquiry?
- ◆ Who will be able to appear without reservation?
- ◆ Who will be unashamed to stand before Jesus?
- ◆ Who will have lived on earth in anticipation?

Fact: It won’t be the careless!

Fact: It won’t be the worldly!

Fact: It won’t be the self-righteous!

Fact: It won't be the hypocrite, compromiser or selfish!

Question: Who is it pastor, that is getting ready for Christ's appearing?

Answer: It is the one who knows **the Fire of the Lord!**

(Look At Jesus Described)

- #1. (Verse 2), "He is like a refiner's fire"
- #2. (Verse 2), "He is like a fuller's soap"
- #3. (Verse 3), "He is like a refiner and purifier of silver"
- #4. (Verse 3), "He is like one who purges gold and silver"

Question: Pastor, what is Jesus doing now (as we prepare for His coming?)

Answer: He is purifying us all so we can stand before Him unashamed. (Repeat)

Question: How is Jesus doing this?

#1. **Like A Refiner's Fire**

◆ The way a jeweler purifies his metal in his furnace.

#2. **Like A Fuller's Soap**

◆ The way a launderer washes dirty clothes.

Question: Why is the Lord bent on purifying every heart here?

Answer: (Verse 3), "So that we can offer Him an offering of our lives in righteousness" (And)
(Verse 4), "So that our lives will be an offering pleasant (acceptable) unto the Lord"

(In Other Words)

◆ **Acceptable service can only come from a pure heart!**

Question: How many of you want your life to be an offering of righteousness unto the Lord?

Question: How many of you want your life to be an offering pleasant for Jesus to receive?

Question: How many of you want to be free from all debris and dross and defiling influences?

(How Does Purification Take Place?)

#1. **Experiencing The Fuller's Soap**

- ◆ This is the milder of the two processes.
- ◆ The fuller's trade was well known in Judea.
- ◆ The Jews wore white garments on all festive occasions.
- ◆ The fuller (or launderer) cleaned the stained garments by rubbing them with a marl (or wooden mallet).
- ◆ The soap was a vegetable alkali taken from various plants near Joppa.
- ◆ The soap would extract the stains and separate the stains from the garments.

Question: Pastor, what does this have to do with me?

Answer: As the fuller could conquer the stains in the garments (so Jesus can conquer any stain in the heart).

- ◆ He can wash out the toughest stains,
- ◆ He can remove the deepest grime,
- ◆ He can extract the things you could never extract (what is His ingredient?)

(I John 1:7)

"The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin".

#2. Experiencing The Refiner's Fire

Malachi 3:3, "He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver"

Question: Why is Jesus sitting? (Because)

Answer: The refiner always sits so that he can watch the metal carefully.

- ◆ If the metal is left a minute too long or a minute too short, it is **spoiled and ruined**.

Question: Why the refiner's fire pastor?

#1. Because of your potential in God

(Proverbs 25:4), "Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer".

#2. Because of the will of God for you

(I Thessalonians 4:3,4), "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification... that you should know how to possess your vessel in sanctification and honor".

#3. Because of the Holy Spirit's ministry

(John 16:8), "When the Spirit is come, He will convict of sin".

#4. Because of the rejection of every counterfeit

(Jeremiah 6:29, 30), "The bellows are burned, the lead is consumed in the fire, the founder melteth in vain... reprobate silver shall men call them because the Lord hath rejected them".

(It Is The Ministry Of Fire)

#1. The refiner removes the dross from the ore.

#2. The purpose is to make the silver shine.

#3. What Jesus did in person at His first coming, He does now by His Holy Spirit.

Question: What is the fire of God?

Answer: It is the Holy Spirit penetrating and exposing and extracting everything that taints and stains the image of Jesus in me. (Repeat)

Question: What encourages us when in the fire?

Answer: (The "Silver Secrets" from Psalm 66:10 – Read)

#1. Refined silver requires care and skill in the silversmith!

- ◆ The refiner measures, compensates and with utmost care he deals with the silver.

#2. Refined silver requires just the right furnace.

- ◆ Not just any oven will do, it must be an environment to produce a good metal.

#3. Refined silver requires just the right heat.

- ◆ All the attention of the silversmith is on the thermostat, (it must be neither too hot nor too cold).
- ◆ If it is too cold, (the base metals and tin will not separate from pure silver).
- ◆ If it is too hot, (the minute portions of silver will be carried off with the lead).

#4. Refined silver requires just the right timing

- ◆ The silversmith knows when to take the metal out of the heat.

(Ever Ask Yourself)

- ◆ "Does the silversmith (the Lord) know what He is doing?"

- ◆ “Does the silversmith (the Lord) have His eyes upon my fire?”
- ◆ “Does the silversmith (the Lord) keep His hand upon the thermostat?”
- ◆ “Does the silversmith (the Lord) know how much I can handle?”

(Let's All Read Leviticus 6:8-13)
3 Essentials In Tending The Flame

#1. The Ashes

“Take up the ashes and put them beside the altar”. (Leviticus 6:10)

“Carry forth the ashes outside the camp” (v. 11) **(What are the ashes?)**

1. Ashes are what remains after the fire.
2. Ashes are the residue left after the fire burns.
3. Ashes are the dross that God cannot accept.
4. Ashes are the flesh and corruption that will not be accepted.

Question: What does God say to do with the ashes?

Answer: “Carry them away, get rid of them”.

Question: Why give time to the ashes?

Answer: Because the ashes must be removed before the next fire can be lit. (Repeat)

- ◆ Refuse to deal with the ashes and the fire goes out.
- ◆ Refuse to deal with the ashes and the flame is extinguished.

(Removing The Ashes Means:)

1. I must remove anything that would hinder the fire from burning.
2. I must remove anything that would quench the fire from igniting.
3. I must remove the ashes first, before I can expect to burn with the fire of God.

#2. The Garments

“The priest shall put on his linen and take up the ashes” (v. 10)

“And he shall put on other garments to carry off the ashes without the camp” (v. 11)

Question: Why is the priest given instructions concerning his dress?

Answer: Because it does matter how we appear before God and approach His throne.

(Clothing Illustrates Truth)

1. “Wedding Garments” (Matthew 22:12)
2. “White Raiment” (Revelation 3:18)
3. “Keep your Garments” (Revelation 16:15)
4. “Arrayed in fine linen, clean and white” (Revelation 19:8)

(What Is The Big Deal?)

- #1. We must be clothed with clean hands and a pure heart before our spiritual sacrifices will be accepted.
- #2. We are wasting time if we want to burn with Holy Fire, yet our clothes still carry the smell of ashes.
- #3. We learn here, that the slightest engagement in worshiping our Lord deserves to be esteemed as Sacred and Holy and Important!

#4. We discover that I must live right at all times, so that I can pray right at anytime!

#3. **The Wood**

“The priest shall burn wood on it every morning” (v. 12)

Fact: Not just any wood would do!

Fact: Care was given by the priests in selecting the sticks to burn.

Fact: No rotten wood was allowed!

(God Said “Stoke The Fire”)

Question: What kind of wood will ignite the fire?

Question: What kind of logs will keep the fire ablaze?

Question: What kind of material is demanded to burn?

Question: What kind of wood is combustible?

**(Logs That Are Real Firewood
That Allow God To Burn In Us)**

◆ Repentance

◆ Humility

◆ Confession

◆ Godly Sorrow

The Expectation Of Christ’s Forgiveness

Question: Have you been guilty of something that Jesus wants to change?

Question: Has condemnation made its way (like a dark cloud) over your heart?

Question: Are you here wondering what to do now?

Question: Do you think you’ve resisted too long or have you given up in the process?

Question: Has the devil lied to you and said, “What’s the use?” (or) “You can’t change”?

Question: Are you embarrassed to come again to Jesus for some dross to be removed?

(Hear The Word Of The Lord In Malachi 3:7)

“Return unto Me, and I will return unto you saith the Lord” **(Return From What?)**

(Verse 7), “The days you went away from My ordinances and have not kept them”

(In Other Words)

◆ The people had been attending church (in the temple).

◆ The people had been outwardly in motion.

◆ The people had been going through the form and rituals of religious service.

(But The Lord Pleads “Return”)

Question: What happens when we move toward God?

Answer: (Verse 7), God will move toward you!!!

Altar Call

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