



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

---

**Sunday – January 22, 2023**

## **Heart to Heart...**

Sincere, godly men and women of faith are a wonderful blessing. They desire to not only serve the Lord with a heart of gratitude but to love the Lord's body, the church. Jesus spoke of such men and women when He taught: ***"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."*** (Matthew 5:8) God knows His godly ones but so does Satan!

When Satan approached God, God volunteered His servant Job and God placed His reputation on Job. God asked, ***"Have you considered My servant Job?"*** (Job 1:8) God knew there was no one like him on earth. Job held to God with all his heart and was found blameless, upright, turning from evil and fearing God. The battle ensued. God saw Job as a pure, wholly devoted man. Satan saw Job as a hypocrite because if anything bad were to happen, Job would certainly turn on God! God saw in Job a man that glorified His Maker. Satan saw Job as a nothing, weak man! What God sees and what the devil sees (and others) are so opposite.

When Jesus walked our earth, what He saw in those forgiven and devoted to God was much different than what others saw. When Jesus approached Matthew, a low-life tax collector in the eyes of those around, Jesus called him to follow. Jesus saw something different than what anyone else saw.

A woman came into Simon the Pharisee's house (Luke 7). Simon saw an ungodly, unholy woman and even questioned Jesus in his own heart why He would allow such a woman to be around Him. Simon saw the woman, the sinner. Jesus saw the woman, the forgiven because of her love being expressed to Him who loved her.

Looking through the eyes of the Lord makes a world of difference in one's mindset and view. We come to us. We gripe and complain about others. The devil sees the church as failures, hypocrites and worthless. What does the Lord see? ***"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourself with Christ."*** (Galatians 3:27) He sees us clothed in the righteousness of Jesus!

Satan was relentless on Job and will be even more relentless against the Lord's church, His body. We can be easily carried away by weaknesses and failures and start condemning one another. ***"Therefrom from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."*** (II Corinthians 5:16-17) Because we are clothed with Jesus, we are God's children and Jesus' brethren (Hebrews 2:11). That's why John writes that whoever loves the Father will love those born of Him (I John 5:1). If we could only look through the eyes of the Lord as we view His body. We can, can't we? But that would require of us to be like God, loving and accepting as Christ accepted us, wouldn't it? Think about it!!!

*Brent*