

"THOU GOD, SEEST ME"**Introduction**

1. The narrative of Hagar
2. Her discovery here
3. God sees us all

1. WHEN GOD LOOKS AT PEOPLE HE DIVIDES THEM INTO TWO GROUPS

- 1) It is a common mistake to think God views all men alike: "universal brotherhood of men".
- 2) We need to understand what these two groups of mankind are:
 - (i) NOT Jews and Gentiles (as Pharisees thought)
 - (ii) NOT Church-goers and non-Church-goers
 - (iii) NOT Baptized and Unbaptized
BUT: Those who know and love Him v. all others
- 3) There are different ways of putting this:
 - (i) those who are light v. darkness
 - (ii) those who are 'of the world' v. not of it
 - (iii) who have the love of God v. do not
 - (iv) the law written in their hearts v. do not
 - (v) those 'in Christ' v. those not in Him
 - (vi) those 'of the Spirit' v. those of the flesh
 - (vii) those 'reconciled to God' v. not so
ILLUSTRATION:
 - Shepherd: sheep v. goats
 - Judge: innocent v. guilty
 - General: friend v. enemy
- 4) Note these things also:
 - (i) God sees with perfect accuracy – no error
 - (ii) God either approves or disapproves of us
 - (iii) God's view of us is most just – that which he thinks of us each one is what we are.

APPLICATION: We should be deeply concerned about what God thinks of us each one.

2. ONE OF THE GREATEST LESSONS TO LEARN IS THAT GOD IS LOOKING AT US ALL THE TIME

- 1) To know and remember this is to be kept from many mistakes:
 - (i) Joseph (ii) Peter.
- 2) God has an eye that sees everything
 - (i) Man looks on the outward: God looks on the heart
 - (ii) God sees our thoughts: Christ of Judas
 - (iii) Only God sees the whole of anything
 - (iv) God measures every thought by His law
ILLUSTRATION: Daniel's words to Belshazzar.
 - (v) God records the whole of everyone's life – from start to finish.
ILLUSTRATION: Tape recording: CCTV
- 3) So we need to realise God is a Judge in several ways:
 - (i) The judgement at death
 - (ii) The final and great judgement
 - (iii) The daily, life-long judgement
- 4) So in this life, every action we do is either receiving God's approval
 - or else his frown:
 - (i) to be ignorant of this is to be in danger of great provocation: e.g. Sennacherib.
 - (ii) it explains why people allow themselves to blaspheme – to kill – to steal
OBSERVE: To understand that God is all-seeing is a life-changing lesson to learn:
ILLUSTRATION: Zacchaeus' conversion
APPLICATION: Have you learnt this lesson yet? O Learn it now!

3. **GOD'S THOUGHTS TOWARDS US IN THIS LIFE ARE THOUGHTS OF MERCY AND KINDNESS**

1) We have seen that there are two sorts of people. Towards the righteous – God has thoughts of love:

- (i) He is a Father towards them in life
- (ii) In our trials He helps us: e.g. Hagar
- (iii) Hears our prayers e.g. Jehoshaphat
- (iv) Is ready to forgive our folly: Peter

APPLICATION: O Christian, turn to God for all your needs. He is ready to help you.

2) But what of those who are still the enemies of God?

- (i) God would wish them to repent: Matthew 23
- (ii) God would rather they came to their senses than rushed on to death:

ILLUSTRATION: The Prodigal Son

- (iii) God will welcome every sinner who comes to his senses and asks for mercy: So we read in Isaiah 55

3) The Basis on which God does this:

- (i) Jesus Christ has paid all that is due to God's justice
- (ii) Faith in Christ brings us into the status of being counted righteous

CONCLUSION

- 1. If you are aware of all this will you not pray for mercy?
- 2. Will you not teach others who do not come to church?
- 3. Wonder at these words: "Thou, God, seest me."

PSALM

33: 10 – 16

11: 1 – 7

103: 13 – 18