



Good at Looking

Judges 21:25; Joshua 23:12-13; 24:23; Psalm 119:35-37

Message from Pastor Martin Hawley

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Bottom Line: Yield your heart to the invisible King.

Introduction:

Do you really want to be like **everybody else**?

Do you want to be **average**?

The truth is **everybody** else takes cues from **everybody** else. If you take your cue from **everybody** else, you will end up like **everybody** else.

The problem is we take our cues from their **highlight reels**. We don't see behind the scenes. We can't see inside. We only see outside. If we could have seen how their outside behavior was eroding their insides, we may not have been so quick to copy.

If you had known that living like that on the **outside** would leave you feeling like this on the **inside**, you would have never gone along.

BUT, you did what was **right** in your own **eyes**. You did what you wanted, when you wanted, with whom you wanted, and you abandoned what you **suspected** was right in your own **heart**.

Today, I want to show you the way back.

Review:

We've been in the Old Testament book of Judges – Ancient Israel, where for 300+ years, history kept repeating itself.

Disobedience → Disaster → Deliverance

The book ends with the following statement:

“In those days there was no **king** in Israel; everyone did what was **right** in his own eyes (Judges 21:25 NASB).”

They became like the nations around them, and they were captured by the nations they copied.

Joshua’s farewell address acknowledged their propensity and ours to take our cues from what’s happening around us.

Joshua 23:12 (NIV84), “[Don’t] ally yourselves with the survivors of these nations that remain **among** you ...”

Joshua 23:13 (NIV84), “ ... they will become **snares** and **traps** for you, **whips** on your backs and **thorns** in your eyes ...”

What looks good will turn out **bad**.

Joshua 23:13 (NIV84), “ ... until you perish from this **good** land, which the Lord your God has **given** you.”

God wasn’t trying to **keep** the nation from something good. He was trying to **give** them something good. He was trying to make them **special** – *not like everybody else*.

This is the tension for all of us. We will either believe, “God is **for** me.” or “God is keeping something good **from** me.”

Joshua 24:23 (NIV84), “‘Now then,’ said Joshua, ‘**throw away** the foreign **gods** that are **among** you ... and **yield** your **hearts** to the **Lord**, the god of Israel.’”

Who will be king?

Will I yield my life to what everybody around me is doing, or will I yield my life to the will of the invisible King?

It’s a kingdom of **conscience**, or it’s kingdom of **covet**.
It’s either **inside-out** living, or it’s **outside-in** living.

Prayer suggestion: “Lord, help me see as you see, and help me do as you say.”

NEXT WEEK– Right in the Eye: Nobody’s That Stupid

Once Samson had his eyes put out, he was able to see.

Chances are your greatest regret can be traced back to a decision where your body wanted something that your heart knew was wrong. An appetite was raging. You saw something or someone you wanted...even though he, she, or it wasn't healthy for you. But you gave in to your body anyway. You yielded to the little kings that want to replace the Creator King who calls you to live from the inside out.

What do you do when your body wants what your heart knows is wrong?

Conclusion:

Israel’s trouble began when the Israelites began looking around at all the other nations. God wanted Israel to look up, not around.

They were conquered by the nations they captured.

Look forward for too long, and you will have far less to look forward to. **On the inside, you’ll be like everybody else.**

Have you **yielded** your heart to the invisible King?

Psalm 119:35-37 (NIV84)

Direct me in the **path** of your commands,
for there I find delight.

Turn my **heart** toward your statutes
and not toward selfish gain.

Turn my **eyes** away from worthless things;
preserve my life according to your word.

NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize: Joshua 24:23.**
- Read Psalm 119:35-37 out loud every day this week.**
- Pastor, I will yield my heart to the invisible King.**
- Return next week for Right in the Eye – Part 4.**