

## E-Series

### Can You See Him? (Final)



*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. **13** Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **14** And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. **15** Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. **16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as*

*you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. **17** And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

**—Colossians 3:12-17**

This past Sunday we had a wonderful conclusion to our *Can You See Him?* Series. It was great to see two worship services filled with people who were truly worshipping—singing “hymns and spiritual songs” to God and praising Him with joy. Our praise band did an outstanding job leading us in worship. All totaled 525 people worshiped with us at Wightman on Sunday. You could certainly feel the presence of the Holy Spirit and see Jesus on the faces of those worshipping.

But as we talked about Sunday, that’s easy. It’s easy to look at people who, for the most part, look like us, have the same skin color as us, talk like us, and think like us...It’s easy to look at people who are nice, Christian, generous, gracious and good and see Jesus in them. But it gets a lot harder to see Jesus in the face of somebody on Death Row, or sleeping on a park bench, or cutting you off in traffic. Despite the level of difficulty, those are people created in the image of God, and, in those unlikely faces, Jesus has said he would show up. According to Sunday’s passage from Matthew, how we deal with those people has everything to do with how our Just Judge will deal with us one day. “I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me - you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40).

Sunday afternoon one of our members told me about a time he bought breakfast for a man standing by the Interstate holding a “Will Work for Food” sign. When he bought his biscuits at a nearby restaurant, he bought extra and pulled over to give it to the man. The man took the biscuits, threw them at our member, and said, “I don’t want this. I just want your money!”

Talk about infuriating. If that had happened to me, I would have stewed over that for hours, even days. But, later—after I had some time to reflect on that story—I thought: Really, it didn’t matter. Jesus never said that we would be judged by how “the least of these” respond when we feed, clothe, give water, or visit them. But, he did say we would be judged by what we do. My friend, our member, was obedient to Jesus even though it was difficult.

Following Jesus is not easy. He warned us of that. Sometimes it will be infuriating. Sometimes it will push us past our comfort zones of race and class. Sometimes it will mean sacrifice. But, sometimes we will see the face of Jesus in the most unlikely places.

Trying to Keep My Eyes Open,  
*Pastor Michael*