

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 03 March, 2019 928-535-9575 2750 Mogollon Drive, Overgaard, AZ 85933

www.faithlutheranovergaard.org

WORSHIP SERVICES – 10:30 am & 6:00 pm Sunday
Solid Bible-Based Preaching & Teaching



You know it. "The look." I don't know why, but (in my

experience) women have it down much better than men do. I've seen a six-

foot-plus man stopped dead in his tracks by a four-foot-nothin' woman who gave him "the look".

"The look" is powerful almost beyond imagination.

It is most certainly powerful beyond words. We can certainly hurt people with our words, but sometimes the way we look at people can have more effect than any words we might say. One look can reassure while another can cause anxiety. One look can convey love while another can creep you out. One look can lift up while another can devastate. A lot depends upon who's looking and who's looking at the looker.

There is one look in particular that has been referred to throughout the ages and across all cultures. Some imagine they know what this "look" looks like (especially Hollywood), but it really has more to do with the one looking, than the one being looked at. It's called the "evil eye".

In many cultures around the globe, the "curse" of the "evil eye" is believed to have magical powers to harm, sicken, or even bring death to the

Evil Eye – Loving Eye

recipient. What is common throughout most are malevolent feelings toward another because of jealousy or covetousness.

In Arabic culture, the "evil eye" [al-ayn] is a curse brought upon oneself for haughtiness and pride. At the heart of this understanding is the idea of refusing to acknowledge God as the source of blessing.

In Hebrew culture to have an "evil eye" [ayin hara] most often means to gaze at something with ill feelings or envy. Proverbs (part of the Hebrew Scripture, which Christians call the "Old Testament" of the Bible) explains that "a man with an evil eye" is covetous – offering a gourmet meal in order to take something of greater value from the person receiving the "free" meal. It means his "eye" sees something that belongs to another which he wants for himself, and so the eye is "evil".

Indeed, there is much evil that a man can do with his "eye". The evil almost always proceeds from an evil desire. This is so poignant that Jesus spoke directly to it when he said,

"If your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell," (Mark 9:47)

Of course, the eye itself here is not what is evil, but rather the evil desire behind it.

Continued on the last page)



Women's Ministry

Open to ALL women who attend Faith
Lutheran Church!

There was no meeting in February due to snow.

Sunday Evening Services at 6:00 PM

Lenten
Soup
&
Fellowship

5PM WEDNESDAYS



Birthdays

Mar 7 Teddi Jackson
Mar 22 Viola Allen
Mar 27 Mary Robles

Anniversaries

None this month

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE



- \$5000 will be withdrawn from LCEF Savings to cover current expenses.
- Pastor is planning June 3-16 for Vacation
- Transition to an allowance from expense reimbursement for Pastor's Phone & Vehicle will save the congregation expense.
- Some By-Laws are under review for better application

MONTHLY MEETINGS & EVENTS



March 5 – Church Cleaning
March 6 – Ash Wednesday
March 18 – Elders Meeting at 9am
March 18 – Women’s Ministry at 1:30pm
March 26 – Council Meeting at 9am
Midweek Soup & Service – Wednesdays 5&6pm



Practice Tuesdays - 4:30 PM

Pastor's Office Hours

Mondays - 10am - 4pm In the Office
Tuesdays - 10am - 12pm In the Office
Wednesdays - Visitation Day
Thursdays - 10am - 12 pm In the Office

Call for appointment -
928-535-9575 or 323-717-4390
revnwirtz@yahoo.com,
or just drop in, or call anytime

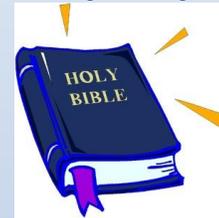
BIBLE STUDY

Sundays – 9 am

Hebrews

Thursdays - 9 am

Deuteronomy study-continues



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Bible Lesson
for Kids



Sundays – 9 am

*Sermons and Bible Studies can
be listened to on the website.*

www.faithlutheranovergaard.org

(Pastor's Corner: continued from page 1)

Biblically speaking, the notion of looking at something with an "evil" eye presents us with two contrasts; the first between good and evil, and the second between God and man. In the (human) contrast between good and evil much can be said about the condition of the human heart by how that person looks at other people and things with his eye. For instance, one can look at another with either lust or love. One serves himself while the other serves another. One is evil and one is good.

Jesus told a parable comparing the Kingdom of God to a man who owned a field. In the morning the man hired day laborers to work the field and agreed to pay them a denarius (one day's wage). Throughout the day, he kept returning to town to get more laborers and promised to pay them "what is right". With only an hour left to work he picked up the last group and put them to work as well. Then at the end of the work day he paid them, beginning with the last. The amazing thing is that he paid those who only worked an hour the same as those who worked the entire day in the heat of the sun. Those who worked the longest expected to be paid MORE than those who had barely broken a sweat, and they complained that the owner wasn't dealing with them "fairly". To which the owner replied, "Did I not give to you what you agreed to work for? What business is it of yours what else I do with my own money? Is your eye evil because I am good?"

The owner of the field was "good". He used his field to provide a need for every man in the village that day. They all now had the means to obtain the food, drink, clothing, and shelter that their families needed for that day. Before he took them off the street, they were penniless; they could NOT provide for themselves. The owner of the field gave them what they lacked. The owner of the field didn't NEED their help. It was his intention to GIVE everyone everything that he needed, regardless of any labor they might offer up for it, because, quite frankly, no amount of labor would ever merit what was given.

THAT is how "the Kingdom of God is like a man with a vineyard ...". In the Kingdom of God, what is freely given is not a response to "service rendered". Everything in the Kingdom of God is a gracious gift to the subjects. Not only are all the necessities for living freely provided in this kingdom, but LIFE itself is freely given. The King gives EVERYTHING to his subjects ... even his own life! ... and that makes him "good".

That brings us to the second contrast; the contrast between man and God. In the kingdom of God, God gives away everything! In the kingdom of man (this present temporal world) a business could never be run like the vineyard in the parable. If the owner gave away everything he would go out of business! Our world and our "business" is transactional. Employers employ employees in order to profit from their labor ... even as employees work for their employers for THEIR own benefit. They both give and they both take, and it often works well for BOTH.

While giving away everything in the kingdom of this world will never succeed, it can and DOES succeed in the Kingdom of God because God's capacity to give can never be exhausted. The well of God's grace, mercy, forgiveness, life, and love is without limit. It is because of His great love that He gives so freely and abundantly.

Finally, His love brings us to His "eye" (which is so different than ours). Where our eyes can look at others with malice, lust, and envy, God's eyes only look at us with love. Our deepest sadness comes only when, by our own evil eye, we turn God's loving gaze away from us. Our greatest joy, and God's most fervent desire, is that He see us all and always with His loving eyes.

"For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;"
(Psalm 103:11-13)