



Week 21: Seeing Jesus in Photos/Film

Scripture: (these verses focus on image bearing and images which carry some relation to what pictures/film represent): Genesis 1:26-27, 5:1-2, 9:5-6, Exodus 20:4-6, Deuteronomy 5:8-10, Isaiah 40:18-31, Acts 17:24-31, Romans 8:28-30, 1 Corinthians 15:42-49, 2 Corinthians 3:18, 4:4, Colossians 1:15-20, 3:5-11

Devotional:

A snapshot is one alternative name we use for a photograph. This title speaks to how a photo gives a window into a particular moment in time and space. As we look back on photos, our minds instantly bring up the memories and happenings surrounding that moment. Though we might not have thought about these things for a long time, these snapshots quickly bring these moments back to life. As powerful as these pictures are, they can only give insight into those particular moments. If I look at a picture of someone, I can discern some things about them in that moment, but it would be going too far to say I could know all their story from a single photograph. To grasp a fuller version of the story, I would need to gather more photographs and ultimately need to talk to that particular individual.

People didn't have cameras during Scriptural times, of course. Nevertheless, this idea of snapshots which powerfully give a window into moments and events comes through. Scripture itself is one of these snapshots. These books and passages are written by God's people through the power of the Spirit to give a glimpse of what God was doing in those moments and what they reveal about God's overall story.

Scripture also powerfully points out that we ourselves are snapshots. Human beings are created in God's image. Each of us is meant to be a living, moving picture of God, even if now this is distorted through sin. Our lives are meant to give a small window into God's character and his overall story with creation. As Paul witnesses in Athens, he says God made us and determined the exact times and places where we would live (Acts 17:26). We are snapshots in a particular time and place of our story, but also ultimately of God's.

But, just like I can't presume to know someone's whole story from a single photograph, I shouldn't presume to know the whole of God's story from just my own life. To gain a fuller understanding of God's story and my place in it, I need to interact with more snapshots God has given to us. This means interacting with Scripture and God's creation, and also interacting with other human beings. When we share our image-bearing stories, it gives us a more complete picture of God and his ever-unfolding story in this world. But ultimately all this points us to Jesus. Scripture tells us he is the exact image of God, and so the ultimate snapshot of God and of his plan. The more we see Jesus, the more we can see of God's story and of our own.

Song

*"Have Thine
Own Way, Lord"*



Activity

Look through some pictures and reflect on God's presence and plan in our lives through time.

Memory Verse:

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Questions to reflect on this week:

How have I seen Jesus in the **B**ible?

How have I seen Jesus in the **L**ove I show toward God/others?

How have I seen Jesus in **E**arth he's created?

How have I seen Jesus in **P**rayers?

How have I seen Jesus in the **O**thers he's placed before me?

[**BLEPO**: means "to see" in Greek]

Seeing Jesus is believing in Him!



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