



# **The Eyes of Sincere Faith**

**Luke 4:22-30**

## Luke 4:22-24

And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, “Is this not Joseph’s son?”

And He said to them, “No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, ‘Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.’”

And He said, “Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown.

## **Luke 4:25-27**

“But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land; and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.

And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.”

## **Luke 4:28-30**

And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. But passing through their midst, He went His way.

# **Main Point**

The eyes of sincere faith see Christ for who He is, looking beyond what is merely amazing or familiar and seeing clearly the need for His grace.

# The Eyes of Sincere Faith

A sepia-toned landscape featuring a winding dirt road that leads from the foreground into the distance. In the background, a large, multi-towered castle or fortress sits atop a hill. To the right of the castle, three large, simple crosses are visible against the sky. The overall scene is hazy and atmospheric, with a warm, golden-brown color palette.

The eyes of sincere faith see the Person,  
not the performance.

# **The Person, Not the Performance.**

Mere amazement is not faith.



## **Luke 4:22**

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**Luke 4:22**

And *all* **were** speaking well of Him, and **wondering**  
**at the gracious words** which were falling from His lips.

## Luke 4:22

And **all were** speaking well of Him, and *marveling*  
**at the gracious words** which were falling from His lips.

## Luke 4:14-15

And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit,  
and news about Him spread through all the surrounding  
district. And He began teaching in their synagogues  
and was being praised by all.

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district. And **He** began teaching in their synagogues

and **was being praised *by all***.

Luke highlights the universality of amazement but sets it in contrast to the people's violent reactions.

Amazement is common in the Scriptures, but it doesn't mean there is sincere faith.

## **Ezekiel 33:30-32**

But as for you, son of man, your fellow citizens who talk about you by the walls and in the doorways of the houses, speak to one another, each to his brother, saying, “Come now and hear what the message is which comes forth from the LORD.” They come to you as people come, and sit before you as My people and hear your words, but they do not do them, for they do the lustful desires expressed by their mouth, and their heart goes after their gain. Behold, you are to them like a sensual song by one who has a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument; for they hear your words but they do not practice them.

## **Mark 6:19-20**

Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death and could not do so; for Herod was afraid of John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. And when he heard him, he was very perplexed; but he used to enjoy listening to him.

# The Person, Not the Performance.

Mere amazement is not faith.

Sincere faith sees the *Person* of Christ  
who is amazing.



**Luke 4:21**

“Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

**Luke 4:18**

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon *Me*,

Because He appointed *Me*...

He has sent *Me*...”

**Luke 9:20**

And *Jesus* said to them,

“But who do you say that ***I* am?”**

And Peter answered and said,

“The Christ of God.”

The words and works of Jesus *are* amazing, but sincere faith sees and believes in Jesus for who He is, not for what He does.

# The Eyes of Sincere Faith

The background of the slide features a sepia-toned illustration of a large, multi-towered castle or fortress situated on a hill. To the right of the castle, three crosses of varying heights are visible against the sky. A winding path or road leads up the hill towards the castle. The overall atmosphere is one of solemnity and historical significance.

The eyes of sincere faith see the Person, not the performance.

The eyes of sincere faith see what is true,  
not what is familiar.

# **What is True, Not What is Familiar**

Familiarity breeds contempt.



## **Luke 4:22 and 24**

And they were saying, “Is this not Joseph’s son?”

And He said, “Truly I say to you,  
no prophet is welcome in his hometown.

## **Matthew 13:54-57**

He came to His hometown and began teaching them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers? Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” And they took offense at Him.

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And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did

this man get all these things?” **And they took offense at Him.**

But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor  
except in his hometown and in his own household.”

The people most familiar with Jesus' ordinary life took offense at Him because pride prevented them from seeing through what they thought they knew.

This wasn't new!

### **Numbers 16:3**

They assembled together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “You have gone far enough, for all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is in their midst; so why do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?”

### **Luke 4:24**

And He said, “Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown.

The rejection of the prophets went beyond mere scorn and frequently resulted in murderous persecution.

## **Luke 4:28-29**

And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff.

**Again, this wasn't new!**

## **Jeremiah 11:21**

Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the men of Anathoth, who seek your life, saying, “Do not prophesy in the name of the LORD, so that you will not die at our hand...”

## **Hebrews 11:37-38**

[The prophets] were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated... wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

# What is True, Not What is Familiar

Familiarity breeds contempt.

Sincere faith sees through to what is true.



## **Luke 4:18-19**

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,  
Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor.  
He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives,  
And recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set free those who are oppressed,  
To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”*

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## **Luke 10:22**

“All things have been handed over to Me by My Father,  
and no one knows who the Son is except the Father,  
and who the Father is except the Son,  
and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”

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# Sincere seeing is a gift of revelation!

## **Ephesians 1:18-19**

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened,  
so that you will know what is the hope of His calling,  
what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,  
and what is the surpassing greatness of His power  
toward us who believe.

The hope of sincere faith is grounded,  
not on what physical eyes can see or perceive,  
but on what the eyes of faith see and believe.

## **Romans 8:24-25**

For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees?

But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

# The Eyes of Sincere Faith

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The eyes of sincere faith see the Person, not the performance.

The eyes of sincere faith see what is true, not what is familiar.

The eyes of sincere faith see what is needed,  
not what is deserved.

**What is Needed, Not What is Deserved**

Entitlement is blinding.



## **Luke 4:23-24**

“No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me,  
‘Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done  
at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.’”

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‘Physician, heal yourself! **Whatever we heard was done  
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The Nazarene's felt entitled to at least a comparable display of power as that done by Jesus in Capernaum and were perhaps even offended that He had not *come home* first.

Jesus' response?

## **Luke 4:25-27**

“But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land; and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.

And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.”

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And there were **many lepers in Israel** in the time of Elisha the prophet; **and none** of them **was cleansed**, but **only Naaman the Syrian.**”

## **Luke 4:28-29**

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## Luke 4:28-29

And **all the people** in the synagogue **were filled with rage**

as they heard these things; and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff.

Rather than humble themselves  
and see their need, the people were  
enraged by their sense of entitlement:  
they were children of Abraham,  
God's chosen race, after all!

# Entitlement is blinding...

**Luke 3:8**

“Do not begin to say to yourselves,  
**‘We have Abraham for our father,’** for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.”

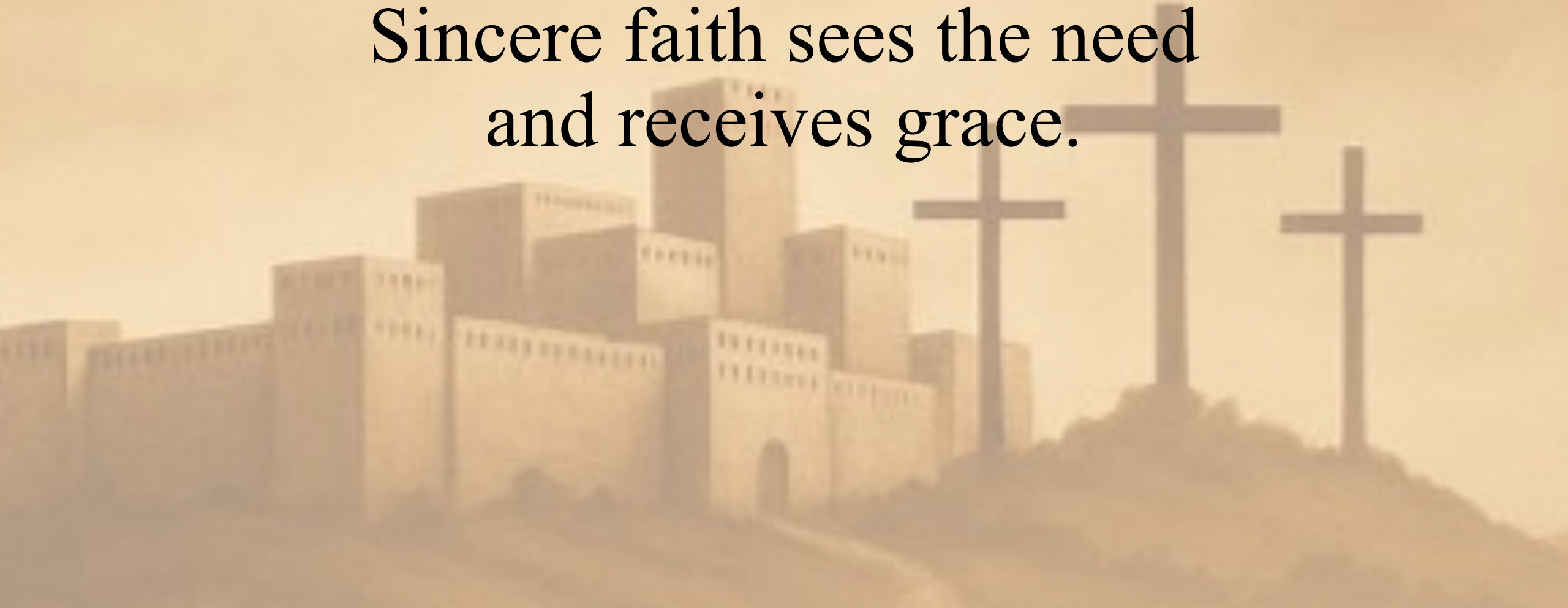
**Luke 15:29**

But he answered and said to his father, “Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends.”

# What is Needed, Not What is Deserved

Entitlement is blinding.

Sincere faith sees the need  
and receives grace.



## **Luke 4:18-19**

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,  
Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor.  
He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives,  
And recovery of sight to the blind,  
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To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”

## **Luke 5:31**

“It is not those who are well who need a physician,  
but those who are sick.”

## **James 4:6 and 8-10**

But He gives a greater grace.

Therefore it says, “*God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*”

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom.

Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord,  
and He will exalt you.

Pride is blinding, but eyes of faith  
see the need, cry out for mercy,  
and receive grace.

# For Reflection

Are you most amazed by the Person of Christ or by His performance in your life?

Are you letting the familiar dull your faith?

Is entitlement creeping in, or are you drawing near in your need?