

**Kailua Christian Church (UCC)**  
**First Sunday of Advent - November 27, 2022**  
**“Seeing in the Spirit”**  
**Scripture: Revelations 3:14-22 ESV**  
**Pastor Elijah Yip**

Revelation 3:14-22 ESV

“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation. “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”

**Message:**

**Seeing in the Spirit**  
**Elijah Yip**  
**Kailua Christian Church**  
**November 27, 2022**

**Introduction**

**Advent is a season of great joy because we celebrate the coming of Jesus. Jesus came to bring the Gospel, which literally means “good news.”**

**Luke 4 tells the account of Jesus going into a synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth. He’s given the scroll of Isaiah, and he reads this passage:**

**“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”**

**Luke 14:18-19. Jesus’ ministry God’s tender heart of mercy. He is grieved by the oppression, bondage, and destruction that sin brings upon people.**

**Healing is therefore an integral part of Jesus' ministry from the very start. The full breadth of the Gospel is about the restoration of creation. The good news is not just that we get a ticket to heaven after death. Jesus came to bring us eternal life, and eternal life starts the moment a person trusts Jesus as his or her Savior.**

**Jesus performed many healing miracles in the Bible. But Jesus came to heal not just physical disease. He also came to heal spiritual disease.**

### **1. We are citizens of not only the physical realm, but also the spirit realm**

**There is both a physical reality and a spiritual reality. We are living in the spirit realm now even if we can't see it with our eyes.**

**The physical world mirrors the spiritual world; the two are counterparts of each other and they work together.**

**We are to be people of the spirit, not just flesh. If we perceive only in the flesh, we miss out on a big part of reality.**

**- "And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit." Galatians 5:24-25.**

**- "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit." Romans 8:5**

### **2. Jesus heals both physical disease and its spiritual counterparts**

**Physical disease has a spiritual counterpart. A disease impairs a body part from functioning as it should. A disease causes destruction and perhaps even death. E.g., disease of the eyes impairs**

**vision, disease of the ears impairs hearing, disease of the limbs impairs motion.**

**Jesus repeatedly says, "let those who have eyes see, let those who have ears hear," often after teaching a spiritual principle. Jesus is saying that one can't perceive spiritual reality if one's spiritual senses are impaired, i.e., diseased.**

**The most prominent and frequent of Jesus' physical healings have to do with these conditions:**

**Blindness**

**Deafness**

**Lameness/disabled limbs**

**Muteness**

**Leprosy**

**Each of these physical conditions has a spiritual counterpart. There is spiritual blindness and deafness just as there is physical blindness and deafness, and so on.**

**Jesus' physical healing miracles point to the availability of healing of the spirit.**

### **3. Healing of spiritual blindness**

**Consider the spiritual disease of blindness.**

**Jesus often spoke about spiritual blindness. He said, "Let those who have eyes, see." In the book of Revelation, Jesus speaks to the Church in Laodicea, which is a lukewarm church. Jesus**

**says of the church: "For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing**

**that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me . . . salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see." Revelation 3:17, 18. The Laodicean church was spiritually blind, which explains its lukewarmness. It is difficult to be zealous for God when you can't see Him.**

**Causes of spiritual blindness:**

**- Following Christ involves living based on what we see in the spirit instead of the flesh.**

- **"[F]or we walk by faith, not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7**
- **"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."**

**Hebrews 11:1**

**- What we see in the physical can dull our spiritual sight or crowd out truth, like how cataracts cover up vision. Examples:**

- **The woman in the Garden of Eden "saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes." Genesis 3:6**

- **Samson's eyes led him to stray from the Lord until he had his eyes put out and finally fulfilled his spiritual calling. Mark 9:47**

- **Jesus teaches us that if our eye causes us to sin, pluck it out.**
- **Jesus teaches about taking the plank out of our own eye to be able to see clearly to remove the speck from a brother's eye. Matthew 7:5**

**Healing spiritual blindness**

**- Jesus advised the Laodicean church to "buy salve to anoint our eyes that we may see"**

**- Two spiritual principles:**

- **We notice what we seek.**
- **Sacrifice sharpens spiritual vision**

**We notice what we seek**

**- We become sensitized to things we look for. When we train our eyes to look for certain things, we notice them more readily.**

**- If we diligently seek out fleshly things, we'll see more fleshly things, but that will diminish our spiritual vision.**

**- Conversely, if we diligently seek out things of the spirit, we'll sharpen our vision of the spirit realm.**

### **Sacrifice sharpens spiritual vision**

**- Jesus advises the Laodiceans to purchase eye salve from him**

- **The Laodiceans thought they were rich. They thought they needed nothing. In reality, they were spiritually poor. Jesus tells them there is something they don't have and need to buy from him: Eye salve.**

- **Buying refers to the idea of a transaction, an exchange—a sacrifice.**

**- Jesus wants to heal us of our spiritual blindness, but we have to want it. Being healed of blindness requires an exercise of the will.**

- **Mark 10:46-52: Blind Bartimaeus calls out to Jesus, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” When Bartimaeus gets Jesus’ attention, Jesus asks him, “What do you want me to do for you?” (a question with a seemingly obvious answer). Bartimaeus said, “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.” And he was healed.**

#### **4. What's your action step?**

**Do you want sharper spiritual vision? What sacrifice are you willing to make to show an earnest**

**desire to receive healing? Prayerfully consider one thing you can do to obey what the Holy Spirit is telling you through this message.**