



The 5 – Summer Series

The Context for the Series

The title for the series is 'Open the eyes of my heart' which comes from the song of the same title. The desire that we would like Jesus to open our hearts – our emotions, our senses and our minds – to see what is happening around us every day and to know how to respond to what we are seeing. But not just to know how we would respond but to step more and more into knowing how Jesus would respond and so our responses reflect kingdom ways of doing things in ways. We know that Jesus is clear, in John 5:19 that *"the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son does also."* What Jesus sees (knows and understands) is different from how others would respond in the situations that he faces because he is listening and responding to God's direction and his ways. What happens through these responses is that it impacts the person/people that Jesus is connecting with and influences the culture around them. But the cultural change is not as the world would see or expect.

The Series – Open the eyes of my heart

We will spend time in the teaching of the gospels where Jesus sees and responds to a need/situation and then take that example and relate it to today. We will look at how Jesus, by *"doing only what he sees his Father doing"* finds different answers to the situations that he faces. It will have practical application so that everyone can see that they are people who can influence cultural change in their places of being, by learning to listen to God and responding in ways that brings Jesus love and power into the situations. Through the openness to respond in different ways, each person can experience change in their own lives in how they grow and connect with God and others. Sometimes we may not see ourselves being culture changers and people of influence but as followers of Jesus, who are open to the leading of the Spirit, we will, step by step, begin to see the culture around us being impacted.

Each passage of scripture that is taught from will have a different subtitle that starts with the words 'the power of.....' Some of these are the power of silence, the power of the moment, the power of compassion, the power of freedom. The power, wisdom, guidance, direction and leading of the Spirit in these situations moves us away from doing it in our way and our strengths and learning how to *'do only what the Father does'*.

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