



### Scripture nugget – They look and look but do not see

*This is why I speak to them in parables, because ‘they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.’ Isaiah’s prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says: ‘You shall indeed hear but not understand, you shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and be converted, and I heal them.’ (Matthew 13:13-15).*

**How much truth we can discern depends on the state of our heart.** The chief priests, scribes and the elders cannot discern the truth that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah. Thus, they were perplexed about His mighty works and teachings. They confronted Jesus and demanded to know by what authority He was doing all these things (cf. Luke 20:2-8). Jesus knew they were not interested in the truth but were out to trap Him. They wanted evidence to use against Him for blasphemy so that He can be put to death. Jesus did not renounce them but instead countered them with a simple question: What was the origin of John the Baptist’s baptism: from heaven or man? After deliberating among themselves and realizing that either answer would put them at a disadvantage with Jesus, they decided to tell Him that they did not know. In response, Jesus countered by saying He would not tell them the answer to their question. God does not favour the proud-hearted but scatters them (cf. Luke 1:51). If these Jewish elite religious leaders and elders had listened carefully to the preaching of Jesus, they would have already known the answer to their question. However, their major stumbling block was their closed, hardened hearts and the inability to discern that Jesus is the Messiah despite their substantial religious knowledge and the stupendous miracles Jesus performed in public. The proud-hearted have the truth obscured from the eyes of their heart.

**God shows the simple-hearted His ways (cf. Matthew 11:25).** Jesus passed by a Samaritan town and rested at a well. He asked a Samaritan woman to give Him a drink of water. The Samaritan woman was surprised that a Jewish man would condescend to speak to a Samaritan woman, the two groups of people being at animosity with each other. The woman told the truth about her sinful, disordered life when questioned by Jesus. *The woman said to Him, “I know that the Messiah is coming, the One called the Anointed; when He comes, He will tell us everything.” Jesus said to her, “I am He, the One Who is speaking with you.” (John 4:25-26).* Here, we are struck by the direct reply of Jesus in deep contrast to how He dealt with the chief priests and their cohorts!

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, You said: Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it (cf. Proverb 4:23). A simple heart is one that treasures the truth and stands in reverence of God and His Commandments. By Your crowning with thorns, purify my heart of ailments which can blind me to the truth: pride, self-righteousness, apathy, complacency, hatred, unforgiveness, unholy desires. Fill my heart with Your ardent love, humility and simplicity. Open my eyes. Open my heart. Forgive me my past sins and impart to me wisdom and discernment so that I can discern the truth and live in the truth. Have mercy on those who do not wish to live in the truth. Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.