

Apple of His Eye

I. Slide1 **Announce:** *Joshua Caddy, worship leader*

- A. My face: swollen because (explain). *apple on my eye*, ha! [camera team, *my good side*]
- B. Slide2 Food Drive - Monday 10/5, 9-11am. They **WILL** take all donations. They have specific need for *canned beans, veggies, and cereal*. Please *no tomato sauce*.
- C. Slide3 After this Sat Eve Service - TheDoleWhipGuy. *For purchase*.
- D. Slide4 Men's Breakfast - Oct.10.
- E. Prayer: Ps.16:3 nkjv *As for the **saints** who are on the earth, They are **the excellent ones**, in whom is **all my delight***. (*delight* - a feeling of *extreme pleasure or satisfaction*)

II. Slide5 **Intro:** *Apple of His Eye*

- A. Ever struggle with your identity in Christ? Israel did. We all do. *Daily!*
 - 1. Where do we find our identity? How do we want to be known? What Image do we want to project? What do we post on social media?
- B. Our **Identity** is in Christ. *And we should **Live** out our **Identity***.
 - 1. Remember, **Roles** are what you do. **Identity** is who you are.
 - 2. You aren't *what's been done to you* but *what **Jesus** has done for you*.
 - a) You aren't what you **do**, but what Jesus **has done**.
- C. **Who** does God love? *Does God love everyone?* **Yes**, He shows mercy and kindness to all. *Does God love **Christians** more than He loves **non-Christians**?* **No**, not in regards to His merciful love. *Does God love **Christians** in a different way than He loves **non-Christians**?* **Yes**; because believers have exercised faith in God's Son, *they are saved*. God has a unique relationship with Christians *in that* only Christians have forgiveness based on God's eternal grace. The unconditional, merciful love God has for everyone should *bring us to faith*, receiving with gratefulness the conditional, covenant love He grants those who receive Jesus as Savior.
- D. Slide6 Goal for tonight? that you feel **special** & know that you are **loved** by God.

1. *That you would know you are the center of His **attention**, the focal point of His **admiration**, & the core of His **affection**.*

III. Slide7a **FOR THE LOVE OF GOD**

A. Deut.32:10 *He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; he encircled him, he cared for him, he kept him as **the apple of his eye**.*

1. See if this doesn't apply to **Christians** as it does to **Israel**. (4 green verbs)

B. God's love for Israel/us...

1. God doesn't love you because you're *lovable, or attractive, or funny*, but because it's **His nature** to love you.
2. He doesn't judge us on our performance (eg. a parent watching his child at a sporting event) our earthly parents might have, but He never does.

a) Slide7b Why does God love us? Deut.7:6-8 *For you are a people **holy** to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has **chosen** you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. 7 It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, 8 but it is because **the Lord loves you** and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers.*

(1) **Setting His love on you** - *hasaq*, a tethered love, a love attached to something or someone. [at night my iPhone is *tethered* so it can charge]

C. What do you think of when you hear **Apple**? I think of *Honeycrisp Apple* (w/Jack cheese slices). *I think of Apple Fritter, Mmmm*

D. Slide8a **Apple**? אֵינְשׁוֹן / E-shOwn. It can mean *treasure*, or *something precious*. But usually It refers to *the pupil of the eye*.

1. **Pupil** – comes from the Latin word meaning, *a tiny doll*. Referring to the **small reflection** you see of yourself when you look into another's eyes.
2. So **Apple** in Hebrew means literally, *the little man*.
 - a) So, God's eye is on *the little man*!

- b) Slide8b You might feel like *the Durian of His eye* (smelly). *The Rambutan of His eye* (from S/E Asia, like eating a *peeled* grape). **God delights in me?**
- c) No matter how *little, obscure, forgotten, insignificant* you feel tonight, **YOU are the apple of His eye, if** you are **one of His kids**.
- d) No matter how *unsocial, unlovely, unloveable* you might think you are... **YOU are the apple of His eye, if** you are **one of His kids**.
- e) No matter if you feel just like *Peter the Rock, that proved to be a sandpile...* **YOU are the apple of His eye, if** you are **one of His kids**.

IV. Slide9a HE SHIELDS AND GUARDS

A. Ps.17:8 *Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings,*

1. **Keep** = safety from injury, harm or danger. [note: **keep me** & **hide me**]

- a) Here is His promise to **care for** His people.
- b) **God guarded** Israel *as a person eye is automatically guarded*.
- c) We say, *in a blink of an eye* (1/10th of a second). We blink approx every 4 seconds (20,000 times a day).

2. Slide9b **Keep me as the apple of Your eye** – None of our 5 senses are more precious.

- a) M.R.Dehaan said, Blindness is one of the greatest misfortunes of life. For this reason the Creator of the eye has **protected it** in a most careful & unusual way. The eyes are **placed deep into sockets**, surrounded by **a wall of hard bone**. In addition they are protected by **eyelids**, which completely cover the eye when danger approaches. On these eyelids are the **hairy eyelashes** to catch dust & other fine objects, & then, most wonderful of all, there is **a system of perpetual irrigation** or washing. The **tear glands** secrete a soothing, salty solution which keeps the eye moist & clean at all times. To keep the eyes from blurring & the tears from running over, there are provided little channels or

tear ducts which drain the cleansing fluid into the nose. All this illustrates how precious is the eye, & how the Creator has provided for its protection.¹

b) **Slide9c** We've all seen pictures of **coal miners** after a whole day **underground?** They come out with their entire faces *black with dust*, except for 2 spots on their faces that are just as clean as when they went in.

(1) Amid all the dirt & filth of this world, the Lord can keep us clean as *the apple of His eye*.

V. **Slide10a TOUCHED**

A. Zech.2:8 *For thus said the Lord of hosts, after his glory sent me to the nations who plundered you, for he who touches you touches the apple of his eye:*

1. The prophet expresses that **harming Israel** is equal to harming the most vulnerable and sensitive part of Yahweh Himself. [poking God in the eye]

B. **Slide10b** But note, **we will** get touched! (*he who touches you*)...**but when they do**, they are **messing with God!**

1. **Did the serpents bite them?** Yes, but God provided a remedy and healed them. **Did enemies attack them?** Yes, but they paid for it dearly. **Did Balaam try to curse them?** Yes, but God turned it into blessing. **And traveling were they exposed to the sun in the desert?** Yes, but the Lord was their shade on their right hand. **And this is what God has done for us.**

2. We **will** be touched by **disease**, **or** by **mean people**, **or** by **calamities**... **but** know there is that **sympathetic resonance** with God. [1 thing vibrating makes another thing vibrate. Like 2 tuning forks]

a) When a cord is struck in the weakness of **our** human instrument, it resonates in **His/Jesus**.

C. Brennan Manning, in his *The Ragamuffin Gospel* wrote, **In 1982, when I moved from Clearwater, Florida, to New Orleans, I did some homework on the origins of**

¹ M.R. DeHaan, Bread for each Day, March 23rd.

the Christian faith in the area. In sifting through the archives, I came across a fascinating piece of information. Over a hundred years ago in the Deep South, a phrase so common in our Christian culture today, *born again*, was seldom or never used. **Rather**, the phrase used to describe the breakthrough into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ was **Slide10c** *“I was seized by the power of a great affection.”* These words described both the initiative of God and the explosion within the heart when Jesus, instead of being a face on a holy card with long hair and a robe with many folds, became **real, alive, and Lord of one’s personal and professional life.** *Seized by the power of a great affection* was a visceral description of the phenomenon of Pentecost, authentic conversion, and the release of the Holy Spirit. The phrase lent new meaning to the old Russian proverb, **Slide10d** *“Those who have the disease called Jesus will never be cured.”*²

D. **END:**

E. **If we are the apple of Gods eye, what should be the apple of ours?**

1. Prov.7:1,2 *My son, keep my words and treasure up my commandments with you; 2 keep my commandments and live; keep my teaching as the apple of your eye.*

F. He *lived a perfect life for you* because *you are the apple of His eye.*

He *died for you* because *you are the apple of His eye.*

He *loves you so much* because **YOU ARE TONIGHT** *the apple of His eye.*

² Manning, Brennan. The Ragamuffin Gospel (pp. 195-196). The Crown Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.