

Machine generated transcript - And so I want to share with you this morning what I what I have what God has put on my heart and I want to start by saying this OK we are on a mission it we're on an assignment and we can't forget this and I think a lot of times it's easy for us to forget this I do you and I and you probably do at times as well. But we have a purpose we have in a mission a mission an assignment to reach this world to reach our community when we choose Jesus. He will we give our hearts to Christ and we surrender our lives to Him we confess faith in Jesus it becomes our responsibility to share Jesus with the world around us to share the whole that we now have. And that's what we have we have a confident hope called self vision and it's our responsibility to share it with the world so let's not forget that I want to start there let's not forget that we have a mission we have an assignment to share the good news with this world. And my question as I was thinking through this there was a couple of things that popped into my mind. Are we representing Christ well right are we representing Christ Well we have to be evaluating what we give our hearts to Jesus that's an amazing thing but as we're going through this faith journey we need to be evaluating our walk with the Lord ask yourself where are we at in this place. If our mission in our assignment our responsibility is to share Jesus with people are we representing Christ well. We got to ask ourselves that question. Whatever you do or say do it as a representative of Christ the fusions three seventeen let me say that again whatever you do or say do it as a representative of price. Some days. I feel like I do a good job at this and some days not so much. And I think that I think that probably is true for most of you here there are probably times where you feel like as a believer you're representing Christ well and there's probably other times in your life really mean I blew it I really messed up and I want to share an example not to build me up not so that you guys are like Well John you're pretty amazing but I want to just because I think that we are we are representing Christ well at times there are there are times when we're representing Jesus and people are seeing Christ in us and that's a good thing and we can talk about that we can celebrate that. And so want to share a little a little example of that. About a week ago my mom got a call from a lady and it's a lady that I had done some work for I built a porch foresees a porch on her house remodeled her kitchen that's what I did before I was a pastor I was a carpenter and so that was one of the last projects that I had worked on. And she was an elderly lady and she called my mom's house because she had lost my number and she was a K. Is there any way you could give me Johnson right really like to get a hold of them I need to be I need to redo my bathroom and really like to to call and see if you would be able to do work or if you knew somebody and as she was talking to my mom my aunt told me this later when she was saying I really I just really like your son. And I know it sounds prideful and boastful but she said I really like your son he's such a great guy she's like if I could adopt him I would just like I've got children of my own but if I could adopt him I would and so she called me up and she asked she said you know where you at Would you be able to do some work for me she said I lost my sister a lost my sister February who was her best friend and she says she fell down and she broke her arm and she had been a grand village for three months and she was just water and you know did you know any contractors would you be able to do the work I want and I'm not able to do the work because I'm busy with other things but the thing that I thought was neat was. I feel like I was representing Christ well in that time when I was working at her house you spent a lot of time as a contractor when you're when you're working on someone's house you spend a lot of time there. And I felt like when I when I was working there I always I always made it my I was trying to do the best job that I could do you know I wanted to do the best work that I could do but I also spent time talking to her and getting to know her and listening to her because a lot it she was lonely her husband had been divorced and her kids were moved away so she didn't have to really talk to so I spent time talking with or. Just paying attention to her. You know a lot of times I feel like it's simple things like that. That makes the difference that's when we're representing Christ well in it that that left an impression in her and I don't I would argue that I don't think I would be that same person if I didn't have praised in my life you see when I when I go throughout the day before I was a pastor even when I would go throughout the day. You know I would I would ask myself that question and I represented Chris well. You know what I'm what I'm here at work. In my representing Christ well in

my making price known. In the way that I act the way that I live all my life. And honestly I share that and I know it sounds prideful. But that's that's the things that I think we're called to do and I also looked at that same example and as she was telling me the story she was talking about horses passed away I also thought to myself Man I kind of blew it you know after I got the phone with her I realized I should have you know I should actually share in words were my source of hope in my source of comfort comes from is my hope is in the Lord my hope is in the salvation I found in Jesus and there's a time when it's when we're called to live it out in our actions and in the way we treat people in our attitude and those things are important but there's also times where we need to share in words what it is that we actually believe and so. I feel like there's a part of you were like yeah that's that's that's right I was representing Creswell and maybe there is maybe there is more that could have been done there as well there's also other times where I don't represent Christ Well can I just say that driving is one of those times when I just forget that the people in the cars are people you know like you just you forget that there are people and I know some of you can you can relate to this you're driving along you're just like these people are out to get me I know they're out to get me like seriously they're driving slow because they know I'm behind them and I want to get to where I'm going a little faster. In those moments. Actually we just have that one as we were driving to where are we going you're going to can't know we were all together I don't know what it's for but for like John just relax you know so trust me when I say that I don't always represent Christ well either. Well there are times when I do. And we have to ask ourselves that question are we representing Christ well. Another way of looking at it are we the ambassadors God wants us to be. In second Corinthians Chapter five Verse twenty it says so we are Christ's ambassadors making God is making his appeal through us. In ask another way of looking at it but the Bible talks about this a lot thank God for whatever reason I don't know why God chooses to use us to make his appeal to people why he has us to be his representatives because sometimes I'm like God we're not always the best at doing this but first a reason God does ask us to do this yes and when we come to an understanding and we come to believe in Jesus he asked us to become his representatives he asked us to become some bastard remember I just talked to in the beginning and we're now we have a mission. Right we have an assignment to reach the world for Jesus and are we doing that well are we doing that well I have to ask myself that question all the time and you need to be asking yourself the question is well are we doing this well. Are we pointing people to Jesus or we point people away from Christ. Obviously God does all the work at the end of the day he's the one who changes hearts and lives but he uses US uses us in this process another way another way and this is kind of where I want to lead because I got kind of give me this picture and I think it's a good picture of what what it's like is we receive got into our life and how we shine that back onto people it says. In second Corinthians three sixty or thirty three verses sixteen through eighteen. It says but whenever someone turns to the Lord the veil is taken away that's what I've been talking about and we begin this relationship with Jesus and that's by police having price believing that he came to this this earth that he was fully man but fully God he lived as perfectly as like you laid it down so that we could be saved right so that we could be forgiven and we could be made right with him says but whenever someone turns to the Lord the veil is taken away the veil is taken off and now we can see the glory of God We can see the goodness of God and in verse seventeen it says for the Lord is the spirit and wherever the spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. And eighteen is the so all of us who have had the veil removed if that's any of us who have said I believe you recognize that God is alive that God is real and he's active in our in our lives and in this world when you recognize that the veil is removed says. We have we have had the that veil removed we can see and reflect the glory of the Lord and the Lord who is the Spirit makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image we see the glory of God The veil has been lifted for those of us that believe we see the glory of God You see the goodness of God I asked Sherri in the team this morning to sing that song because as I was preparing that song in my mind Show us your glory show us your power. Because that's what changes we see the glory of God. And we see the power hand of God at work in our lives in the in the lives of other people that's what changes us and as we see that glory as we see that glory. We begin to resemble it we begin to take

that are we begin to take that image that glorious image on ourselves and we begin to reflect that and I want to show you hey. I've got a light up here. I want to try not to be blinded by the light but imagine this is kind of the picture that I was getting and as I was thinking about how the veil is lifted and we see the glory of God and then the glory of God is being reflected and I imagine a cow like this and there's a lot of places in Scripture where this happens as well like we you literally physically saw this bright lights this glory of God. So also on the way to Damascus he saw the glory of God Jesus revealed himself in this bright light and in Transform Saul to Paul as Jesus was being transfigured right his face shone he was white his clothes were white. As Moses was coming down from the mountain his face shone his as he met with God You can see the glory of God radiating And I imagine the light is kind of like that it's representing God's glory is representing the power it's representing the light it's represent it's really it's compelling it draws you to it there's wonder in it in for those of us that believe right we put our faith in Jesus the glory of God takes on a whole nother meaning to us the glory of God is our salvation right is that confident hope that we have in the salvation that we've experienced. For the glory of God is now our life has has a plan our life has a purpose our life has meaning a Divine Purpose a divine being we are on an assignment when we see that the light when we see God when we talk about his glory we're talking about that we're talking about the fact that now we have purpose we have meaning in our life when we talk about God's glory it we're talking about the new identity the proper identity that we have in ourselves we're no longer just ordinary people we become children of God we become adopted sons and daughters of the King. And when we see that light when the veil is lifted we see we have a proper understanding of our identity and who we are and that veil is lifted. When that veil is lifted suddenly now we have an understanding right we have an understanding of the depth. Of God's perfect love for us when we talk about God's glory we're talking about a perfect love. We're talking about a race that is extended to us that's that's undescrivable that really doesn't make any sense. We're talking about a God Now we have when we look at that life and we see the glory of God We see a God who created everything. We see a God that's bigger than our trials and our storms when we look at the trials of the storms and of life when hard times come. We can look on the we can look at the glory of God. And the glory of God is a God that we can lean on a God that we can trust in. That's what the glory of God when the veil is that that is what we start to see that's what we start to understand about. Who we are worshipping and we're worshipping earlier and we were singing that song Show me your glory show us your glory that veil was lifted and as you're singing those those words I believe God is revealing his glory he's showing us a little bit more of who he is right we're standing in awe as I was there I was I was just thinking this is this is exactly the picture that we have we need to be in our we need to be in and just. Wonder of who God is and what he's doing our lives that's the light when we look at the White that's what we see we see the goodness of God We see the majesty of God. And the way that I kind of see it is we're kind of like the Mir in our eyes or kind of like the mere when we see the glory of God OK we see the glory of God. We take it in. Remember it says We see it and then we start to reflect it. Right we start to reflect the glory of God. We start to become more like God we start to take on that image the glorious image of God. And this is what people in the world see I truly believe that when we take Christ in our life right when we see that light when our eyes are fixed on the light. But are not troposphere is why isn't she really upset. If I drop her here but when we fix our eyes when we behold God and we keep our eyes fixed on on the light we we fix our eyes on the glory. We start to take that on our lives we start to resemble. Price and that's when we're able to represent God Well you see a lot of times we think it's like we know we don't do this or do that we honestly the best thing we can do. The best thing we can do. Is to gaze on the glory of God to just remind ourselves daily in every day we have to remind ourselves of the goodness of God we have to remember remind ourselves of the salvation that we found. We had to remind ourselves that God is worthy and keep our eyes fixed on the glory of God and as we do that you saw how we start to take that we start to reflect that to the people around us and that's what they see that's when they begin to see. That's how we represent Christ is by keeping our Arnie's on praised all that picture really helped me because that's what I think oftentimes it's like and I want to encourage you with that

because that's the hard part right that is the hard part is is keeping your gaze on Christ. Is keeping your gaze upon him and beholding got in just being it are of who he is and what he's done in your life that's the challenge but that's why we come together that's why we do this that's what we do church so we can come together we can encourage each other so we can hear your stories of what got to do in your life and hear stories of what that's doing in your life I mean we have to challenge each other like hey come on let's do this we can do better we can reach our community better we can reach this world better we can fulfill the mission the purpose that we have better and work together so again are we reflecting. God's glory what does that look like right what does that look like in our lives I just want to touch on this a little bit because as we begin to resemble God we reflect that image what does that look like to the world what do what do we see and there's a bunch of places in Scripture that talk about that to talk about the character and I'm not talking like literally I'm not saying that we're going to our faces are going to shine bright brightly like this but but on the inside spiritually what's taking place in our hearts what's our attitude. You know how are we treating people. What does that look like that's the things that I want to talk about. In Romans Chapter twelve it says and so dear brothers Geoffrey to our first one and so dear brothers and sisters I plead with you how much of this letter is really bright. I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you let that be a living and Holy Sacrifice this is what we're talking about. The kind he will find acceptable this is truly the way to worship him. If we're going to be different what does this look like if we're going to reflect the glory of God It says don't copy the behavior and the customs of this world I think a lot of times that's where we take our gaze off of God That's when we stop looking at the light we stop reflecting is when we start looking at the things of this world we start to copy the behaviors and the customs of this world that's when we take our eyes open he says that's when we start representing well. Gotta keep our gaze on Jesus so don't copy the behaviors and customs world but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. And that's what we're doing here today we're talking about changing the way we think that the way we see God and that's what it really is it's going and saying got transformed the way I think about you transform the way I see you let me see you in the in the way that we're still talking about let me gaze on your glory let me see it in know what it is. Let me value it let me treasure it and let me want to keep that in my heart and that happens we search change the way we think. Transforms us then you will learn to know God's will for you which is good and pleasing and perfect. Then it gets really practical a little later on in Chapter twelve. Versus nine and nine through thirteen it says don't just pretend to love others right now or get really practical this is really what it looks like this is how people know this is how we represent Christ Well this is how we are ambassadors got some passengers this is how we reflect the glory of God as we truly love people. Don't pretend and that's really easy to do sometimes. Don't pretend to love others really love them again keep your gaze on God and as you keep it is a God he's going to give you the ability to love people. But we need to love people not just pretend but really do it hate what is wrong hold tightly to what is good love each other with genuine affection and take light and honoring each other. Let's honor each other let's let's build people up let's encourage one another instead of taking words and destroying and cutting people down which is really common to what we do in our society right now we tear people down that's copying the behaviors in the customs of this world it's so much easier to be critical. And to to tear people down in that to make fun of people rather than to build them up and to love them in the courage that. I'm not asking people to pretend I'm not asking for us to fake it but to sincerely think of ways that we can love people that we can speak words of life and encouragement into their into them rather than words that destroy them and cut them down so these are things that are telling whether or not we're reflecting image of God is how we love people how we treat people as never be lazy but work hard and serve the Lord and those he asked to sleep. Rejoice in our confident hope be patient in trouble keep on praying when God's people are in need be ready to help them always be be eager to practice hospitalities are some really practical ways really practical things. And efficient five ones imitate God Therefore everything you do because you are his dear children cautions chapter three verses twelve through fifteen clothe yourselves with tender hearted mercy

show mercy to people kindness humility gentleness patience make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you see when we keep our gaze on Christ and we know that we're forgiven we know that we're loved we have this intimacy a relationship a closeness with God and we are fixed on that and we know that they were able to do these things were able to love people genuinely were able to be kind and tender hearted and show people mercy and show people forgiveness. And that's a cool thing that's the evidence that's the evidence that this is happening that this is taking place in our hearts and our lives this is what people see in Odyssey it's attractive when you see the glory of God and I'm not saying like physically attractive but I'm saying there's an attraction to it. When I was in when we were just in our we were on our missions trip in Slovakia there was something really attractive about the people and their heart for God. There was such a passion and honesty these people had had nothing but surely the Roma people that we ministered to they had nothing materially. But the joy that they had the passion and excitement they had for their faith. The love that they showed was such an encouragement. It was it was honestly that's what I'm talking about that's what I when we talk about seeing the glory of God I believe they were representing Christ well not I mean are they perfect no not of us are I'm not trying to put them on a pedestal but. There was something there that was tangible I've got students in our student ministry that that have had the veil lifted. They've said yes to Jesus they believe they've put their hope in their trust in God and I've watched as their lives have been transformed and if they become they've begun to take on some of these characteristics if they started to understand the the mission in the purpose that they have now that's so encouraging to see it's contagious and it makes you want more of that for yourself that's what I want to leave us with that is are we representing Christ well are we reflecting God's glory because there are certain qualities and characteristics that will start to come out in our lives I'm not saying you're perfect I see that people here too I see people representing Christ well. But we have to value we have to ask ourselves that question and if not it's because our gaze has been taken away from God or we're not we're not looking at the glory of God anymore our eyes are our May be fixed on things of this world we may have been distracted by something sometimes good things and so the last thing that I want to do is I want to ask the worship team to come back on come back up on the stage right now. And I'm going to ask us all to do something they. I want to sing this song because I think this is what's going to this is what's going to help us to stay focused not just not just the sum but it's this attitude. Is this attitude of looking to God. Right to fixing our gaze on the light and as we fix our keys on to the light of God the power of the glory of God we begin to reflect that and so I want to I want to there's some I don't know why you do this but a lot of the Ask people come down from I'm going to ask is this the church is we're going to do this together as a church as we come here so we can encourage each other right so that we can we can be challenged by one another and so I want to come down to this altar we're going to play this song Show Us Your Let's not show is your glory holy ground but the songs that shows your glory. And I want to be people. That are passionate and we're hungry and we're desiring more of God their lives let's encourage each other let's help each other to fix our gaze on to get together as a church and I believe that as we do that we're going to represent Christ Well we're going to reflect the glory of God to the world around us but we have to start by hurting each other we have to start by doing this together be willing ourselves and so I'm going to ask people to stand up physically stand up if you are able and I would ask you to come on down to the front I know sometimes that's weird but I like us to all participate together. I'm not about this like it's just me showing it's all of us together. And I know this is different I know it's a little unusual for some of you but I would just say come on appear close your eyes if that's what helps close your eyes don't look around at people next to you because that's when you get strength that's when you start to worry about what somebody else around you thinks rather they can be your gaze fixed on God and the glory of the goodness of God. And I would just challenge you to make this your prayer. Show us your glory again show us your power. Because I think a lot of people here have had lips is the dance floor you have lips is God's power in your life. And there are times when you are fixated on it and it is it is directing your path it is leading you well and there's times when you are not. And that's what we need to do this we need to refocus we need

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to value a real life. And that's what we're doing this morning to realign. We're going to get a little weird we're going to get a little desperate this morning. It's OK. To kill to break it up with a brick up the door. Let's break up the rock. So we're going to sing the song and I want to join you down there were to sing the song together the number of prayer afterwards we're going to close it out but I just want to sincerely and genuinely take five minutes. To just ask God to reveal Himself to you in a powerful way might you would. See it out as loud as you can. Just worship. Me and sees you treat. Me you know. Not. In. You may. Now every easy these days. Oh. There. You. You. Mean. The. Jesus you change the. World. You. A. A. A. A. P. B P. Jesus you change everything my. Girl. Oh. My. God. She. Father we just thank you again for this and you know we just as if you continue to show us your glory. God continue to transform us continue to make us more like you can I pray that today you've spoken to your people. Got to pray that today you've written something on their hearts that they've seen your glory got they've seen a picture they have seen the image of who you are. And it is etched in their minds that it is transforming them and making them more like you got to praise them for myself and for them for each person that is here whether the veil would be lifted from people's eyes that don't know you got to pray that they would YOU WHERE who you are right now God that they would see your glory radiating off your people not in that they would be compelled to choose you got it was hard to believe in you but they will lay their lives down to you right now because the veil will be lived in. That in that we would represent you well we would be your Vassar's there we would be the way this you make your appeal to people go. And pray that we would reflect the glory of God we would reflect the goodness that the power is the already. We really reflect the whole. And we reflect all of the good things that you are to the world around us. And we will leave this place. With our gaze fixed on you. That we would don't. Phil the bishop. I just bring herdsman to this church right now each person here. Speaking the. Premier news. He met him in hey you guys have a great day thanks for coming in and worshipping you know other good things.