

Three Things God Has Never Seen - Psalms 37:25

Introduction: I've seen some beautiful parts of God's creation in my lifetime: The awesome beauty of the Hawaiian Islands, and a sunset from above the clouds; the magnificent fall leaves of the mountains of North Carolina; the faces of the children at the Children's Home as they received your gifts; my two sons and grandsons when they were born. Every one of these was beautiful in its own special way.

There have also been many parts of God's creation I've never seen: The Statue of Liberty, the Grand Canyon, The Rocky Mountains, a New England Autumn to name a few.

But this morning, I want to talk about some things that God has never seen. Now, to think that there are some things that God has never seen sounds ridiculous. But the truth is, there are things that God has never seen nor will He ever see them.

If you're here today, and you're inclined to believe that God has never encountered someone in your condition, then you need to pay close attention today. If you're in need of hope, or purpose in life, or you're just simply trying to find some meaning to your current situation, I've got some good news for you. I don't know your situation, but God already knows and He cares, and He wants to help. I hope you'll hear Him today. What has God never seen? First, God has never seen:

1. A Problem He Could Not Solve

If you're alive breathing this morning, you've run into problems that you couldn't solve. You've run into things that have just overwhelmed you. You've tried one approach after another; one doctor after another; one counselor after another and been to one church after another, but still no answer.

But listen, no matter how good or skilled or caring people are, they are and always will be limited in what they can do. There is no one out there who has all the answers.

It seems I have to counsel with more people in the past few months than I had in the past four years. Now, I hope I have been able to help, but I want you to know that I am limited in what I can do. Pastors and counselors are not magicians. Now, I'm a magician when it comes to fixing cars and computers and appliances. I have this magical ability to turn a 15 minute job into an all day marathon! Just ask Elaine! I once spent 2 weeks trying to figure out why I wasn't getting any sound from my computer speakers. Then one day I discovered that the thing wasn't even plugged in! And forget about asking me to install a doorknob!

The point is; if we're depending on people to fix our problems, we might be disappointed. Even the church is limited in what we can physically do for people. Lately, we've been bombarded with requests for help with

power bills, gas bills, rent payments, etc. There's no way we can help everybody. But even if we could do more, we're just a temporary solution to their problem. Sooner or later, folks are going to run out of money again and they are going to be no better off.

But I know of someone whose supply has never run out. I know of someone who can meet every need. I know of someone who owns the cattle on a thousand hills. His name is called Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, His name is Jesus!

There were some of God's mighty men in the Scriptures who encountered some problems they couldn't handle, but God was able to handle them. There was Moses who stood before the Red Sea and needed a bridge. God came along and did better: He parted the waters.

There was David who he stood before Goliath and needed an army! But God did better: He guided a stone straight to the target.

There was Daniel who found himself in a den of hungry lions. He needed a lion tamer! But God did better: He simply said, "*Here Kitty Kitty,*" and the big cats went to sleep.

There was Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace. They needed the Babylonian Fire Dept in the worst way! But God did better: He wrapped them up in fireproof clothes, and even jumped in with them to calm their fears.

We may never need the waters parted, but it's a comfort to know when the enemy comes in like a flood you have the Spirit of the Lord to overwhelm them.

You may never need to slay a giant but when your problems seem bigger than you can handle, you can call on the one who knows how to bring them down to size.

You may never be in a lions den but when the devil comes as a roaring lion, seeking to devour you, God can shut him up.

You may never face a fiery furnace, but when you're in the heat of the battle, Jesus will stand in there with you and provide for you a way to escape.

These are not just Sunday School stories that spark our imagination. The Holy Spirit inspired men to write of these great miracles so we could know that God has never seen a problem He couldn't handle. We can trust God to take care of our problems.

Now, you may be wondering, "*if God knows I have a need why doesn't He automatically just meet that need?*" The answer is, He wants you to understand that you can't make it by yourself, you're limited in your

resources and abilities. Just as you had to realize that you couldn't save yourself, you must come to the place where you realize that you must rely on Him to help you, to watch over you, to take care of you. And when you do, and you've turned that situation or that struggle over to God, then He alone will get the glory for what He's doing in your life.

If you will come clean with God and confess those areas in your life that you know shouldn't be there, you'll experience freedom like you've never had, you will experience the weight of sin lifted off of you, and you will be revived. But you must turn it all over to Him. The second thing God has never seen is:

2. A Person He Cannot Love.

We live in a world where love is often distorted; where love looks like hate, and is always given with a condition. With the examples of love we see around us, it's difficult to imagine the kind of love God has for people.

Moses, in describing the Lord to the Israelites, said, *"The LORD did not choose you and lavish his love on you because you were larger or greater than other nations, for you were the smallest of all nations! It was simply because the LORD loves you, and because he was keeping the oath he had sworn to your ancestors... Understand, therefore, that the LORD your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and constantly loves those who love him and obey his commands."*

Deuteronomy 7:7-9 (NLT) In other words, even if we do not love Him, refuse to love Him, or don't even know Him, He still loves us.

The fact that God loves us boggles the mind. We can't even comprehend it. We're like David who said, *"Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain."* **Psalms 139:6 (NIV)** In other words, *"Lord, your love blows me away!"*

Yes, God knows us, but loves us anyway. And it's not just an ordinary love either. It's an eternal love. God told Jeremiah, *"I have loved you with an everlasting love."* **Jer. 31:3 NIV.** It's a universal love. Jesus told Nicodemus, *"For God so loved the world."* **John 3:16 NIV.** It's an infinite love. Paul said it's a love that *"always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres,"* and *"never fails."* **Corinthians 13:7-8 (NIV).** And it's an inseparable love. Paul wrote that nothing *"will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* **Romans 8:39 (NIV)**

God has never seen a person He couldn't love. No matter what you've done, where you've been, or who you've hung around, you are loved by God. Finally, God has never seen:

3. A Sinner He Could Not Save.

Sin is such an awful thing. Unconfessed sin separates men from God and keeps us from seeing the glories of heaven.

Romans 6:23 (NIV) says *“the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord”*

God has never seen a person so bad He could not forgive or a person who has sinned so little that didn't need forgiveness.

I think about John Newton, who was a slave trader and a drug addict and eventually had to be locked up in a cage. But one day he met God who forgave him of his sin and from that experience he wrote *“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I'm found. Twas blind but now I see.”*

I think about men like Bill Fay who loved the fast lane. He was a gambler, a hustler, a power hungry corporate executive, an owner of a prostitute house, and had ties with the Mafia. He once divorced his wife and married a woman he'd never met.

One Easter Sunday, he found himself in a church listening to a preacher preach on the difference between happiness and inner peace. He knew he didn't have that inner peace, but he just brushed the thought aside. But during that year, God sent one Christian after another into his life, only to have them insulted, ridiculed and rejected by Bill Fay.

Then God sent Paul Grant into his life that year during Yom Kippur. Paul was a Jewish Christian, who was always looking to share his faith. When they met, Bill recognized him as a Jew and said, *“Why are you here on Yom Kippur? You should be out doing whatever you Jews do today.”*

Paul replied, *“I'm also a Christian. Yom Kippur is the day Jews ask God to forgive them of their sins for another year. I don't have to do that because I've already received forgiveness through Jesus.”*

Well, Paul and Bill would meet off and on for the next few months, and it was during that time, Bill was arrested for operating the prostitution house. Paul Grant was the first one to call Bill and ask, *“Are you OK?”*

That question set him to thinking about his life and the mess he'd made of it. One day, as he was trying to figure out how he was going to avoid jail, his unbelieving wife said to him, *“Why don't you go talk to the man who married us?”* So Bill Fay drove 85 miles to the church Paul Grant pastored, and there on March 4, 1984, he found what it meant to know Jesus Christ as both his Lord and Savior. Today his testimony is, *“If God can*

change my life, He can change yours.”

None of us deserve to be saved. But thank God, through His mercy and grace, He doesn't give us what we deserve; instead God's grace gives us what we don't deserve and that is God's love and forgiveness and salvation and eternal life.

Conclusion: What is it you need? Do you need to know God's love? Do you need His mercy and forgiveness? God is here this morning to do in you whatever needs to be done. Will you let Him?