**The Looks of Jesus** - Mark 3:5, Mark 10:21, Mark 11:11 & Luke 22:61

When Jesus entered Jerusalem he went to the Temple and Mark tells us that ‘*looked round at everything’.* You can tell a lot from people’s eyes and the way they look at things! Wide eyed, tired eyes, sad eyes. There was a look in Jesus eyes that day – it was a look that caught people’s attention. It’s unlikely that Mark himself was there, it was very likely Peter that reported this to Mark – the look that day stuck in Peter mind enough to tell it as part of the story to Mark.

There are several other times in Jesus life where a ‘look’ was all that was needed to convey how Jesus felt. If Jesus life was captured in a film then this morning I want us to look at 4 still frames, to look at the looks of Jesus.

1. **The Look of Anger –** Mark 3:5

This first ‘still’ is in the Synagogue, on the Sabbath. Jesus was there as usual; around him – listening and watching were a wide range of people. Some believing, but others decidedly ‘anti’. These people were just waiting for him to say something wrong, something contentious; some slip of theology – anything they could take exception to.

In the congregation that Sabbath was a man with a ‘shrivelled hand’. When it’s clear that Jesus is about to heal the man the critics sharpen their pencils, their bristle with indignation – they didn’t say it, but Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asks them directly, provocatively if it would be right to heal the man in the Sabbath (**v4**). They remained silent! Says a lot for them doesn’t it! The whole room is silent now and Jesus looks round at them (v5) and his look is one of anger. Anger that rather than helping people all they could do was make religious rules that made life harder.

He is angry towards these people who resisted what he was doing, what he was saying; people who resisted him, set their heart against him and sought to turn others against him as well.

**John 3:16** is one of the most beautiful verses in the Bible, but just a couple of verses later comes one of the most stark warnings – *‘“There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son’”.* Be under no illusions, God loves and desires to save and rescue, but if you refuse and stay resistant then even now his holy displeasure is upon you. The good news is that today is the day of salvation, etc.

1. **The Look of Love** – Mark 10:21

Out of the synagogue and down the road. Rich young ruler. A man who had so much – wealth, age, and position. He was a God fearing man, upright – an all round good person. But something wasn’t right – he wasn’t sure he was going to heaven. He was a good man, for sure, and Jesus liked this in him. V21 says that Jesus looked at him and loved him. He felt for the man, because he’d tried so hard, yet still missed the mark. In love Jesus then explained what for this man was the next step – he needed to give away his possessions. Not because they were bad, but Jesus knew that this is where his heart really lay, these were his real priorities. In telling him to do this Jesus touched the mans Achilles heal.

It may seem unfair for Jesus to ask this of him, but it was actually an act of love because unless it revealed to the guy why he had no assurance of salvation. He wasn’t putting God first. However good he was this would never secure God’s favour. He needed to submit everything to God, then he’d have what he wanted.

Mark says that the man’s face fell when Jesus said this to him, and he went away sad – **10:22**. He just couldn’t do it. Jesus loved him – but he walked away. Jesus loves you – will you walk away too?

1. **Look of Inspection:** - Mark 11:11

Palm Sunday evening, and we find him going not into a small local synagogue, but into the main temple in Jerusalem. Around the main building is a huge courtyard where people met, talked, learned in small groups, exchanged money and bought sacrificial animals to help people worship. All legit – except what Jesus saw as he looked around that evening was wholesale abuse. It had become a market for people to make selfish profit from money exchange and animal sales. This wasn’t an atmosphere of worship but of business.

Because it was late he did nothing but next day he went back and chaos ensures as he told a few home truths - **11:15-17**.

No longer a physical temple – even this place isn’t the same. The Lord now lives on earth in the heart of his people. 2 Cor 6:16 says that we his people are the temple of the living God. On this Palm Sunday he’s here again, in his temple – as he looks around and inspects your heart, your life, what does he see? What are you allowing to go on, to take place, to live in his temple? What attitudes, thoughts does the Holy Spirit have to share his home with?

1. **The Look of Sadness** – Luke 22:16

Jesus has been betrayed and disciples have scattered. Even cocky, self assured Peter who’d swore blind that he’d never leave Jesus side – oh no, not him – he was made of better stuff than the others! It’s not that he’s gone completely – he’s still near, in the courtyard. Keeping his head down while Jesus is being questioned. But he’s questioned too – and each time he denies he knew anything about Jesus. After the 3rd time …

Well, I’ll let Peter himself take up the story! I reckon this is how it may just have been for him – ‘Skit Guys’ media clip (4.30 mins)

**Conclusion:**

Jesus is here this morning. As he looks into your heart what does he see? What’s his ‘look’ today? Anger, love, sadness? A few moment of quiet to reflect

**He’s also here and able to heal:**