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“Where Will We Set Our Gaze?”

“One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.”
Psalm 27:4

One time I googled how to reduce eye strain, and found you’re supposed to take a break from the computer every 20 minutes to spend 20 seconds looking at something more than 20 feet away. So, I look at the tops of the trees across the street. I try to focus on them, make out as much detail as I can. But do I gaze at them?

David says he wants to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord. He wants that badly. It’s part of his only request to the Lord. Do we want that?

Sadly, I tend to count every 20 seconds I turn my gaze away from the world—and toward the Lord—as some feat of spiritual discipline. David wants to see the beauty of the Lord in the temple, but he struggles to set his gaze on the Lord while his adversaries surround him. We tend to face a different challenge.

Our spiritual enemies stick close, but they’re happy to stay out of sight. They work behind the scenes and in between the lines. Whereas David’s enemies assailed him to eat up his flesh, ours need only distract us with the fleeting beauty of the world. The fight is largely one of where we will set our gaze.

Read Psalm 27. Consider the threat of David’s enemies. In light of that, think about the one thing David asks of the Lord, and then answer this question. Where can you set your gaze today to see the beauty of the Lord?

Josh Dowdy attends Shades with his wife and two daughters. He enjoys coffee and coaching soccer.

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Men of Shades Night at the Barons!

Wednesday, June 22 it's Men of Shades Night with the Birmingham Barons at Regions Field! We've reserved the Home Run Porch for a fun night for the entire family. This is a Men of Shades event for EVERYONE - dads, sons, moms, daughters and your unchurched friends, co-workers and neighbors. And it's only \$10 per person for everyone age 9 and older! You can enjoy the game plus hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, potato chips, cookies, soft drinks, team and water. We've got a special offer for single moms and their children as well. Click on this link <https://www.shades.org/events/mens-ministry-family-barons-game> for all the details and to register. It's going to be a lot of fun, so mark your calendar and plan to join us on Wednesday, June 22 for Men of Shades night at The Barons!

For more info on how to get involved with Men of Shades, visit www.shades.org/men

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