

See The Beauty

Sermon Title: **See the Beauty**

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Speaker: **Nathaniel Hawthorne Bronner, Jr.**

From the series [The Happy Christian](#)

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PASTOR NATHANIEL: Welcome to Brothers of the Word, because, Brother, you need the Word. There are some sermons that sound good, but you soon forget them, and there are some sermons that have the power to forever change your life. I really hope and I pray that this is one of those sermons today, because today's sermon is really more of a story. Most of Jesus' great messages were parables, which are simply stories of the times and situations. So today, I'm not so much preaching as I'm just telling you the story as it happened to me.

About two months ago, my mother called me and said, "Son, I want to come to your office, and I want to talk to you face-to-face." I knew when my mother told me that that it had to be serious, because I talk with her several times a week, so when she said she wanted to come out to my office and talk to me face-to-face, I knew that was serious.

I told mother, "Well, come on out." She came to the office, and she came in and sat down. She had a smile on her face, so I knew nothing was terribly wrong, and she pulled out a letter and just laid the letter on my desk. As I began to read the letter, the letter was written by my mother, and she said that Prophetess Freda had been in church on Sunday, which was the day before that day, which was a Monday. She said that as she saw me and watched me that God just began to minister to her.

She said that Nathaniel needs to get away, and he needs to rest for three-and-a-half days, and he needs to go NOW!

As I read the letter, I told my mother, I said, "Mother, I can first of all accept this." Sometimes when real truth comes, no matter what you've got to do, there is something in your inner spirit that will resonate that says, "This thing is true."

I knew that I was tired. You know, you do a lot of stuff, and sometimes even when stuff is successful, it's still a weight; but if it's not successful, it's a super-weight. But even when you handle things - and I've got two businesses to deal with, a church, an internet ministry, a family, and then my own stuff - so I know I've got at least six things to deal with. And sometimes with all of this stuff, you spend a lot of hours with it and a lot of thought with it, and it can begin to pull and it can begin to wear on you. So when my mother gave me the letter and when I read the letter, I knew without question it was true.

But oftentimes, people, we know stuff and we know it's true. The problem oftentimes is not recognizing the truth; it's doing something about it. We've got nearly a third of every person in this country who smokes cigarettes. The truth is on every package, and it basically says, "Warning, this stuff will kill you." The truth is there; but if we don't do something with the truth, we will suffer the consequences.

Jesus said, "Know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you free," that's not true, because that's not all of the verse. He goes on to say, "If you follow what I say." Knowing it will not set you free. You've got to do and you've got to walk in what you know.

So I knew the thing was true. And I told my mother, I said, "Mother, I will get out of town today." And that's exactly what I did. I left that evening, I spent three-and-a-half days out, and I came back on Friday. I knew that I needed to do this thing on a periodic basis. Generally when God sends you a truth, the thing is true all of the time. You get rest, but what about next month, and then the month after that and the month after that? So I said to myself, "I'm going to start taking a rest on a regular periodic basis." It's a lot better to maintain than trying to restore.

That has always been my principle. It's always been my principle to keep you healthy than to try to pray you back up out of a real heavy sickbed. That's a whole lot easier; it's a whole lot less pain, because in every case in the Bible where the people got down, it was sometimes years before deliverance came. So, if possible, I'd rather keep you out of that; but I have to take that same advice myself. So I said, "I'm going to start doing this on a periodic basis."

So, the next month, which was really this past week, I decided I'm going to get away again for three days. That was something that my father always taught me. The man had some great wisdom. My father always said, "To truly rest, you have to have a minimum of three days." So I said, "I'm going to get away, and I'm going somewhere for three days." I started looking. I was going to the cabins up in the Blue Ridge Mountains, and I looked at the cabins, looked at the cost and checked some other costs, and I said, "Shoot, I can go to Jamaica for the same price of these cabins." So that's exactly what I did. I said, "I'm going to take an extra two days, because it's a day's travel there and a day's travel back." I went ahead and booked a flight and a package to Jamaica. It was during this trip, from its beginning to its end that God began to just deal with me with some things; and I want to share those things with you, and if you can absorb what He showed me in how to live, I think it will make a tremendous difference in your life.

Philippians 4:10 reads in the NIV version, "I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last You have renewed Your concern for me. Indeed, You have been concerned, but You have had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am needful, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want."

He said, "I've learned the secret of being content whether I've got a whole lot or whether I'm running short."

People, everyone will go through those extremes in one area or another in life. Most of the time, you'll go through those extremes in all areas of life. But everyone is going to go through those extremes at one point where you have plenty of something, and then there is another point where you just don't have enough, where you are running short in that same area. Paul said, "I have learned to be content in whatever situation I find myself." He said, "I've found the secret." He goes on with perhaps one of the most famous verses, "I can do all the things through Christ, Who strengthens me." But there are a lot of us in Christ who are not content; a whole lot of us in Christ, but we are not content in all of the things. Say, "In ALL things."

See, we are content in some things; but the minute stuff does not go our way, we are not content in all things. You don't need to be in Christ to be content when stuff is going well! You don't need to be in Christ to be content then. You need to be in Christ to be content when things are not going according to your plan, your program or your desire. "To be content in all things," Paul said, "I've learned the secret."

But yet, there were other people, in fact, who hadn't learned that secret, and he knew that. He never fully explained what that secret was, but God dealt with me with just three words. In all situations, if you can remember, recall and recognize and practice these three words, it will help you to be content in all situations.

And the three words are simply this:

"See the beauty."

See the beauty. I am going to be just detailing some situations that I went through. Many of you are listening electronically; you can't see me, so you wouldn't be able to see a gesture. So what I am going to do, I'm just going to snap my finger. When I snap my finger, all of you just say, "See the beauty." You are going to need to do this in your own life. You are going to need to be able to snap your fingers in some situations so that you will be able to see the beauty of the situation.

I began with making my reservations to Jamaica. When I made the reservations, I made them online; I got a package deal at a very, very good price. The drawback was, there was a five-hour layover in Miami. I looked at this five-hour layover, and I said, "My goodness, that's a long time. But I can take my work with me, I can sit there in the airport, and I can make the time just as productive, I'll be at peace, no one will bother me. I'll be able to see the beauty in that five-hour layover." And once I could see the beauty, the five-hour layover no longer bothered me. I could see beauty in the thing.

I went back about an hour later just to check my package and to see what else was available, and the site where I made the reservation is non-refundable and non-changeable. They had the same package with only a three-hour layover. See, stuff

changes. Now, let me tell you the opportunity that the devil could have had. I had just made my reservation, checked it an hour later, and here they had a flight leaving two hours later that I could have stayed here two more hours, got more work done and got there at the same time; I would have had a two-hour less layover. Before I could even get started, I could have been mad and upset about, "Why didn't they give me this better flight to start with?" But you've got to be able to see the beauty.

It's smaller things like that, and often, it's not really truth that messes us up; it's perception. Because we perceive something differently, it messes us all up, and I had to remember to always no matter what the circumstances, "see the beauty."

I said, "Well, this thing at least will get me out of town faster, easier; I'll have that five hours fully uninterrupted. Let me just see the beauty in this situation and not worry about it, but rejoice in what God has given me."

Let me tell you something, people. How can God ever teach you to be content in some uncomfortable circumstances unless He puts you through some uncomfortable circumstances? You can't learn some things by book, just vicariously; you have got to go through some of this stuff to be able really to learn it and really be able to put it into practice. You are going to have to be able to see the beauty in situations. And if you can't see it, Paradise can get messed up. Jamaica is really a tropical paradise; Heaven is a paradise. But do you know, a third of the angels had to be booted out of Heaven, because they got discontent even in Heaven itself?

Heaven is as good as you can get, where everyone is trying to get to; as good as you can get, but a third of the angels rebelled and had to be cast out of Heaven, because they became discontent even in Paradise.

I got to Miami. I was able to find a nice plug to plug my computer into. I sat there. I worked through the full time. As a matter of fact, I almost ran late getting to the gate, because I got so absorbed and everything was so peaceful, because I could just see the beauty in my situation.

When I got to the gate for the plane, the plane was supposed to leave at 7:15; it didn't leave until 8:30. So there I had to sit another hour and 15 minutes on my way to tropical paradise. I heard all around me people just grumbling and groaning about the fact that the plane was late. Well, you never know what could have happened had things been on time. You never know, because God may have caused a Divine delay so that something tragic would not happen. At least you are going to get there without accident, without crashing. So, see, oftentimes God is working in the background, and you don't see. You don't know all of the stuff that's going on; all you see are the results. So what you see as an hour and 15 minute delay could

be God just taking an extra hour and 15 minutes, so He can fix some things so nothing will happen to you. So you have to always learn to see the beauty.

I got to Montego Bay about 9:30pm. As I got there and got off the plane, I was going through Immigration, and I handed the lady my passport. Now, a week prior, James and I had been at a restaurant; we had been out eating. As we got ready to go, James was up by the door and I was coming, and a young lady asked James something. I could tell there was a strange look on his face from whatever the lady had asked. As we were walking to the car, he said, "I have never heard that before." I said, "Well, what did she ask?" He said, "She asked if we were twins."

So now, I said, "Good grief!" James is 18 years younger than I am, and he looks very young. So needless to say, that made me feel pretty good. I don't have to snap my finger to see the beauty in that. You see, we can see that real easy. Well, when I got to the Immigration Desk with the lady, I handed the lady my passport. The lady said, "You look much older than this picture." She said, "Is this you? How long ago did you snap this?" I said, "Well, it's been eight years ago; but I didn't think I looked that much older than the picture."

As I was walking away, God spoke to me, and He said, "That's an example of external circumstances; and you can never let your emotions and your spirit become tied to external circumstances, because they will go from one extreme as twins to the other extreme as you are looking too old. And if you ever tie your emotions and your spirit to external circumstances, you'll go through waves just like the ocean, because external circumstances will always vacillate and wave and take you from one extreme to the other. So no matter whether they say you're looking like twins or whether you're looking too old, you've always got to be able to see the beauty in the thing."

As I got to the desk to get my bus to go to the hotel, I was staying in another city; and I told the lady what hotel I was staying in and the driver was standing there, and he said, "Where is that?" I knew when he said "Where is that?" that was not a real good sign. So I got on the bus. And I perhaps got on that bus around 10 o'clock. At midnight I was still riding. People were just grumbling all about, "How long is it going to take to get to this place?" I said, "Well, at least I'm not driving, I can sit here and rest comfortably, I can look out the window and sightsee, and I'm in no hurry."

You see, you can fuss, or you can be thankful. You can see the beauty, and in all situations, there is something beautiful about it.

When we got to the first hotel they let the first people out, it was a grand hotel. The second one was a grand hotel. The third one was a grand hotel and had this long, beautiful palm-lined drive, just beautiful, just awesome. I was the last one on the

bus and when he got to my place, he said, “We have to walk from here.” I said, “Uh-oh.” So when I got to my hotel, it did not have a grand entrance. There was just a door there. I had to bang on the door to wake the manager. But even though I could recognize this was not one of those grand hotels, it was quaint; it was quiet; it was way back out of the way; I wasn’t going to have to worry about a whole lot of tourists bothering me, and so I could immediately see the beauty.

I got to the room. On the internet, it said they had wireless internet in every room, high-speed; there was no-speed internet in the room. But I needed my internet, so the next morning I told the manager. I said, “You said you have high-speed internet.” She said, “We do have high-speed internet.” I said, “Well, it’s not in my room.” She said, “It’s not in all the rooms.” So she had to move me to another room.

The room that I was in had a nice, queen-sized bed; when she moved me to the other room, there was an itty-bitty, twin bed. At least it was comfortable, I had somewhere to sleep; and my feet hung over by two inches, but at least the thing was comfortable and the mattress was nice and firm, and the internet worked in that room. So you always have to be able to see the beauty. Really, once you close your eyes, all the beds sleep the same; that stuff is just a mentality. You can be happy or sad in the same circumstances, simply by the mentality of how your mind is.

The internet advertisement also said they had a full restaurant with breakfast, lunch and dinner. When I got up that morning to go to breakfast to take my shower, I went and pulled the curtains back. And you know normally how you have a little spout that goes into the tub? Well, the spout was missing. So when I turned on the water, it just shot out in a stream. There was no knob to turn on the shower. And I said to myself, “What the heaven is this?!”

See, now, this is what you have to always say. Even when the water is just shooting out into the tub, can’t take my shower, see the beauty. I went swimming every day in the ocean, and when you came out of the ocean, they had a shower that you could wash off. That’s where I took my morning shower. So you’ve got to be able to see the beauty in all circumstances. And I was just as happy as I could be. I could see if other people had that stream of water shooting out, they would have been fussing and cussing all kind of stuff. This stuff is in the spirit, people. It’s not in the external, and you can remain just as happy as you want to be.

I got down to breakfast. I said, “Where is the restaurant? The lady said, “Right there in that next room.” When I went in there, I said, “Where is the restaurant?”

The restaurant was a bottle of juice, a loaf of brown bread, a cup of butter and some jelly. That was breakfast. There was no lunch, and there was no dinner. It kept me from overeating. Sometimes if you go to these places that are all-inclusive, you’ve got room service all day long, you’ve got five or six restaurants to choose

from. That was the only restaurant, and they only had that for breakfast, and there was no restaurant within walking distance. So it kept me from overeating.

When I went out in the ocean, it was the first time that I was ever able to swim a full mile, because I didn't have a whole lot of stuff on my stomach. See the beauty of the thing, God can take a circumstance, and if you can see properly, it can change everything, and I was just as happy as I could be.

I took a tour and went down to Kingston and went to some other places. When I got back from the tour, I was telling the lady, "Look, I've got to catch a flight. The flight leaves at 7:30 in the morning. It's a two-hour ride back. They've got to pick me up at 3:00 or 4:00 in the morning. So she said, "Well, what's your flight number?" I had my flight number in my phone; so I went to get my phone, and it was missing.

I had lost my telephone. I've got one of the most expensive phones you can buy. I had three SD cards, and altogether that phone was worth \$800. It was missing. At least I could buy another one, and at least I had a spare phone that I use for my data connection in my briefcase.

So my phone was missing, it was lost. I called the cellular company to let them know, and when the lady answered the phone, she said, "How are you today?" I said, "I'm doing just fantastic." I said, "I had a slight snag, in that I have lost my cell phone." The lady said, "You are the first person that I have ever talked with who has lost their cell phone that has a cheerful attitude." She said, "Folks call me up when they have lost their phones, they're all in tears, they're fussing, all kinds of stuff. You are the first person I have ever talked to who has a good attitude."

Now, the phone was \$800. The lady said, "Let me look at your account." She said, "For the minutes that you are paying for, you are not using all of those minutes." I can downgrade you to this plan. I've gone back over your last three months of usage. I can save you \$70 a month, and you get the same service."

I said, "Do it!"

Then I told her "Check my wife's line." She checked my wife's line and said, "No, this person is taking their minutes." But she said, "They've got \$44 in text-message cost. I can put that on a 6.99 plan, and it will save you \$35." I saved \$105 a month, and normally telephone customer-service reps don't go through the trouble of lowering your bill. It'll pay for the phone. It will pay for the phone in six or seven months, and then I will have the rest of that time all that \$105. So, you see, when you can see the beauty and other people can feel that you can see the beauty, it changes circumstances. I had circumstance after circumstance after circumstance where I was just able to see the beauty.

People, I found that people are the same way. Look at the person next to you, just look at them. Do you see how beautiful they are? Every person has on them and within them beauty. It all depends on eyesight and spirit. In every circumstance in your life, you are always going to have a choice. You can fuss, complain, curse and just get all kind of negative attitudes, or you can see the beauty.

Every circumstance is like that. Every circumstance.

You can be content with whatever condition life finds you. People, I hope that as you travel through life and this stuff happens, just as I saw with me, Paradise or Hell is really in your mentality. It really is. Paradise or Hell is really in your mentality on this plane of existence in this Earth. We've got so much. None of it is perfect, and you can focus on that which God has granted to you, or you can focus on the imperfections. Whichever one you focus on, that's where you're going to lean to in terms of being content or full of misery.

See the beauty.

It starts with seeing the beauty in you and then with seeing the beauty in others. Just look to the person, tell them, "You are beautiful. You are beautiful. You are beautiful. You're beautiful." Do you know, men, if you tell your wife that she is beautiful -- I mean, if you keep telling her that and keep telling her that -- even if she doesn't believe you, it sounds good. It makes them feel good. Wives, if you just tell your husbands, "You are a good-looking man. Man, you're good-looking!" if you keep telling them that long enough and long enough and long enough, you will start seeing it; and because you see it, you will start reacting that way.

So see the beauty in people, in yourself, and in all of the Creation that God has made, see the beauty. See the beauty. That one little three-word phrase will take you through every situation, I don't care how bad it looks. See the beauty. Amen.

PASTOR JAMES: Amen, wasn't that an awesome message? Amen. Pastor told you about the twins question; he said he doesn't have to see the beauty in it. But I had to snap my fingers and say (laughing)... And I had to say, "She asked that question; but the beauty is, at least I don't have an ugly pastor" (laughing). That's when you've really got some trouble, when they ask if you're twins, and you look at the other fellow and go, "Whoo!" (laughing).

We praise God for that message today and see the beauty, amen, amen. And I tell you. Pastor, he has a gift of seeing the beauty. Whenever we travel with him, he is like that all over the world. I tell you, we can be lost some places, and I can remember, "Ooh, this is going be a long way to go back here if we can't find this place." But, Pastor, he's just getting his exercise. I am looking at him and saying,

“The longer I go off lost that way, the further I’ve got to come back.” So he indeed has a gift of seeing the beauty.

This is a message that you not only heard in words, but he lives every day in his life. It’s something that should flow down to us from the head, and we can see the beauty in whatever situation that we are in. We thank him for this message, and we thank the Lord for taking him through all of those experiences with that result.

Well, with heads bowed right now, if there is any person in this place and you have been living your life on your own and you recognize that you need a Savior and you need a Comforter, you need a Heavenly Father and that you haven’t secured your place in Eternity after you leave this world; if that’s you, or if you have strayed where you have known Him at one time and strayed, if you want to rededicate your life, if you will come at this time if you want to [dedicate or rededicate your life unto the Lord](#), because no matter what we go through in this life, no matter how hard our lives seem, we can always see the beauty that in the afterlife we will have no more sickness, no more sorrow, no more pain, no more lack, no more loneliness; that He has prepared a place for us that’s finer than the finest mansions on this Earth; that we will have a body that will be healthier than the healthiest man or woman on the Earth. So we can always see the beauty of that. It’s temporary in this life. This life goes by in just a flash; but in order to see the beauty in that, you have got to know Jesus and be in right relationship with Him, because if you don’t know Him, that Judgment Day is not going to be a beautiful thing. So we want to give you time right now to make sure that you can see the beauty in the afterlife.

Second appeal, if you have been hearing the messages here at the Ark of Salvation and feeling the Spirit here and God is leading you that this is the place for you to call home, we invite you to come and join the Ark of Salvation right now; the doors of the church are open.

Amen, and this is a message that I’ve had to live in my own household with my seventh child due in a month, and as you all know that a parent’s children are a great responsibility. I had to stop complaining about the cost of them and the work involved with them and just went to praising God every time I saw them for the blessing of all of those children. And I just realized that even the reward of them was in the children themselves. So now at night, I just go in their rooms and just praise God for them. And I can just see the mentality that a very few people can see the beauty in it, and even as we walk down the mall, wherever we are, people always come up and ask, “Are all these your children?” And I would say out of a hundred comments, there are probably only two that are good. It’s like, “Whoeee, how in the world do you handle them?” And one fellow asked me last weekend when we were at the mall, he said, “Are all these yours?” I said, “Yeah.” He said, “You know, I hate to pry, but I need to know. Where do you work?” (laughing).

Well, I tell you, they are all everywhere I go. I went to a wedding reception yesterday of a classmate, and everybody asked how many children I had. I mean, they all just looked like they were having heart attacks when they realized it, and they said they had one or two children. They said, "We just can't imagine any more than this." All they could think about was the negative.

Last week also, for one of the first times that I can remember, a fellow could see the beauty. He stopped me in the same mall, and he said, "Are all of these your children?" And I said, "Yes." I tell you, he went on. That fellow stopped me for about 30 minutes straight, and he went through his life story. He said, "I know people don't understand sometime, even in the Church." He said, "My wife is in there, and we have seven children; we have three boys and four girls," and it was exactly the number I have.

As he talked, I mean, he just went on and said he was a builder and how he had to struggle through. And they looked at Welfare, but God was their welfare, and He provided every step of the way. And he talked about the struggle that they had through the years, but he said, "Because I was obedient and struggled through all these seven children," he said, "you know, today I am a millionaire." He said, "I would like to build you a new house one day, I know you need room, Son." So he just went on, and I had to look at the fellow. I was wondering if this fellow was an angel; I mean, his story just ministered to me. My wife was at home on bedrest, and I was out with the children. I tell you, God will send what you need and the encouragement that you need, and He knows what you need when you need it.

He sent that fellow to allow me to see the full beauty of the situation and to let me know it would be all right, trusting in God.

PASTOR NATHANIEL: If you would like to hear this message again or send it to a friend, simply go to AirJesus.com. This is Message No. 5352, "See the Beauty", Message Number 5352. We thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word, because, Brother, you need the Word.

PASTOR JAMES: Amen, amen.

From the series [The Happy Christian](#)