

**2015 Summer Sermon Series (Inspiring Songs of Fresh-Brewed Faith!)
“FIX MY EYES” (For King and Country)**

Texts: 2 Chronicles 20:12
Philippians 3:10-14

Preached: 8/9/15

This is the end of a heart-felt prayer by Jehoshaphat, leader of Israel. The enemy armies of Moab and Ammon came against Jehoshaphat for battle. It didn't look good for Israel, so before he put his armor on, Jehoshaphat prayed, finishing with these words:

2 Chronicles 20:12c

We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

Philippians 3:10-14

¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

This morning I pick back up with our Summer Sermon Series –

Sermons that feature the inspiring songs of Fresh-Brewed Faith – our Spring Youth Sunday School Class. We've explored a mixture styles and genres. This morning we lift up a contemporary song titled “Fix My Eyes” by the band *For King & Country*.



I, myself, presented this song to our youth. My son, Ben, turned me on to this Australian pop duo made up of brothers Joel and Luke Smallbone. They have a unique sound, which I have witnessed “in-person,” since I got to accompany Ben and a friend to a For King & Country concert this last winter.

The brothers describe their philosophy this way: **"The power of music can impact our mood, emotions, our day. But when you merge the strength of music with the heart, hope and passion of the Gospel... it has the ultimate power not only to change someone's day, but to impact them for eternity. This is why we write music and sing songs - we hope that people will be moved, encouraged and stirred to live a life for Someone greater than themselves."**

Joel and Luke are young men of deep faith.
That certainly comes across in this song. Here is *Fix My Eyes*:

You can listen to/watch the song on YouTube -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRvaz4kRxaQ>

And here are the lyrics:

Hit rewind

Click delete

Stand face to face with the younger me

All of the mistakes

All of the heartbreak

Here's what I'd do differently

I'd love like I'm not scared
Give when it's not fair
Live life for another
Take time for a brother
Fight for the weak ones
Speak out for freedom
Find faith in the battle
Stand tall but above it all
Fix my eyes on you

I learned the lines and talked the talk (everybody knows that, everybody knows that)
But the road less traveled is hard to walk (everybody knows that, everybody knows)

It takes a soldier

Who knows his orders

To walk the walk I'm supposed to walk

And love like I'm not scared
Give when it's not fair
Live life for another
Take time for a brother
Fight for the weak ones
Speak out for freedom
Find faith in the battle
Stand tall but above it all
Fix my eyes on you

The things of Earth are dimming

In the light of Your glory and grace

I'll set my sights upon Heaven

I'm fixing my eyes on you

I'm fixing my eyes on you

I'm fixing my eyes

Love like I'm not scared
Give when it's not fair
Live life for another
Take time for a brother
Fight for the weak ones
Speak out for freedom
Find faith in the battle
Stand tall but above it all
Fix my eyes on you
I fix my eyes on you
I fix my eyes on you

What does it mean to fix your eyes on God? ...to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, as the Apostle puts it?



Do you know the character? It's Mad Max...you know, Beyond Thunderdome – road warrior of the future. His eyes are actually focused on his enemies...or at least rivals.

On what else do we fix our eyes? What other prizes do we press on towards?
Success – Retirement – Winning the Lottery – Career – Status?



I don't know what the woman in the photo is fixed on. What do you spot with a scope at dawn?

I have a similar photo in my head. Jo and I were on a hike with a naturalist on Cape Cod. We had taken a boat over to a protected island and the naturalist had her spotting scope focused on a distant mud flat. She looked and she looked and she looked and she finally gasped with glee.

I can't believe it, she said, I'm almost positive that is an Hudsonian Godwit! My friends are not going to believe this! To my way of thinking it's not a particularly handsome bird, but apparently it's rare – The naturalist had never seen one.



How do we fix our eyes on God, so as to know God?



What we do today is a fixing of the eyes of our heart on God.

In a moment we will eat the bread and drink the cup...again taking part in the story of Jesus and taking our place at His table.

It's a time to be renewed...After all the mistakes, all the heartbreak – It's our chance to recommit to the way of Jesus – to pledge to live our lives differently than we have been, differently than promptings and the pullings of our culture. What does the singer say he would do differently?

Love like I'm not scared
Give when it's not fair
Live life for another
Take time for a brother
Fight for the weak ones
Speak out for freedom
Find faith in the battle
Stand tall but above it all



Surely there's something there that resonates with you – that's risky, bold, costly Gospel stuff – that's the stuff of communion – that's fixing your eyes on God.