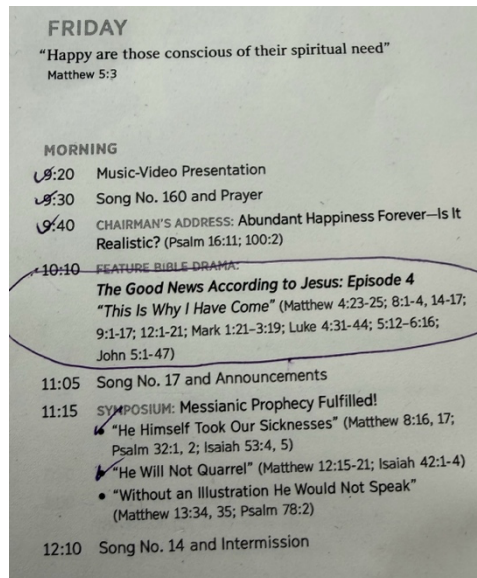


Notes from Day 1 of the 2026 Convention



2026 convention day 1

jesus touched them, healing them and carrying their sickness (interesting! Did this make him feel ill or tired?)

Jesus LIKED his alone time TO PRAY and they had to search for him

it's a shame that the man who was cleansed could not contain his excitement and keep the command to be quiet - did Jesus forgive that? Did he understand? (Topic for future research)

why did Jesus say to the paralytic who was lowered through the ceiling, "your sins are forgiven?"

in the video, I loved that little quirk in one of Jesus's disciples eyes when Jesus asked Matthew the tax collector to follow him – it was like "what is HE thinking?"

Those who are strong do not need a physician, but those who are ill do and that's the response Jesus gave for why he sat with sinners

Education by explanation, demonstration and imitation-this is how to teach effectively

Jn 12,49-50 Jesus learned how to speak from Jehovah, he mastered the effective use of illustrations

KISS-let our publications do the work, Practice finding illustrations your territory will understand

How much more valuable is a man than a sheep. So he told the pharisees it is lawful to do a fine thing on the sabbath.

I want mercy, not sacrifice (mt 7)

Am I refreshing to the friends? Jehovah does not just want us to just follow rules, we also need to show mercy.

Notes from Day 2 of the 2026 Convention

SATURDAY "There is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving" Acts 20:35 MORNING 9:20 Music-Video Presentation 9:30 Song No. 111 and Prayer 9:40 "He Opened His Mouth and Began Teaching Them" ✓ (Matthew 5:1, 2) 9:50 FEATURE BIBLE DRAMA: The Good News According to Jesus: Episode 5 "Astounded at His Way of Teaching" (Matthew 5:3-7:29; Luke 6:17-49) 10:25 Song No. 89 and Announcements 10:35 What Can Prevent Us From Being Happy? (Luke 6:24-26) 10:50 Can You Discern the Principle Behind the Law? (Matthew 5:17-48) 11:15 SYMPOSIUM: Lessons From the Land of Jesus • Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-16) • Plants and Animals (Genesis 1:28, 29; Matthew 6:19, 26, 28; 7:6, 10, 15, 16) 11:40 BAPTISM: "Your Father Who Looks On in Secret Will Repay You" (Matthew 6:6) 12:10 Song No. 51 and Intermission	Sat AFTERNOON 1:35 Music-Video Presentation 1:45 Song No. 125 1:50 SYMPOSIUM: "Happy Are . . ." • "Those Conscious of Their Spiritual Need" (Matthew 5:3) • "Those Who Mourn" (Matthew 5:4) • "The Mild-Tempered" (Matthew 5:5) • "Those Hungering and Thirsting for Righteousness" (Matthew 5:6) • "The Merciful" (Matthew 5:7) • "The Pure in Heart" (Matthew 5:8) • "The Peacemakers" (Matthew 5:9) • "Those Who Have Been Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake" (Matthew 5:10) • "You When People Reproach You" (Matthew 5:11, 12) 3:20 Song No. 81 and Announcements 3:30 "Why Are You Anxious?" (Matthew 6:19-33) 3:55 "Go In Through the Narrow Gate" (Matthew 7:1-5, 12-14, 16-18, 24-27) 4:30 Song No. 21 and Closing Prayer
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Watching more video of Jesus healing a child, a blind woman and a man with a demon: *If I were blind and the first thing I got to see was Jesus smile, how magnificent would that be?* How much power was going out of Jesus to heal them all? How exhausted did that make him? Or did Jehovah supply all that Jesus needed and more? I think that was likely the case. Still as a human man, the emotions alone must have been exhausting.

4 things can quietly rob us of genuine happiness. "Woe!" Sits at the serious heavy end of sadness spectrum.

1. Woe to you who are rich because you are having you're consolation in full. Not wrong to have money, but the desire to be rich is a problem. *The issue is not having money, it's money having us*
2. Woe to you who are filled up, because you will go hungry. This is about complacency. This it the most suble because it does not feel dangerous. Complacency feels comfortable. This can take away our joy slowly
3. Woe to you who live for pleasure, do not chase pleasure constantly, getting together with our bros and sisters to be upbuilding. Be balanced. Do not allow entertain to crowd out spirt activties
4. Who whenever all men speak well of you. Commendation feels good, but too much praise or undo praise can make a person haughty. This danger may be the most unexpected. A kind word lifts someone unexpected. Unearned praise can do damage. Praise that feeds pride sets us up for a fall, cultivate humility to stay close to Jah

Can you discern the principle behind the law?

Law vs principle

Laws tell us what to do, prin tell us hwy and show the thinking of the lawgiver which makes it easier to love and obey bec he has our best int at heart

Mat 5:21 – you must not murder, easy command, but there is more, Principles target our thoughts

Lessons from the land of Jesus (4 gifts from God: salt, light, plans, animals) – Salt and Light

You are the salt of the earth: Salt is a preservative and preaching will save lives. Avoid anything that detracts from our life-saving message.

The dead sea – 9 times saltier than any ocean on the planet, referred to as the salt sea, how did jesus use salt to teach? salt went from dead sea to be used in food, meds and worship, played a key role,

Salt was used to preserve fish so when Jesus compared his followers to salt, his followers understood that meant their preaching work could save lives

Let your light shine – assoc light with truth, let your light shine before men and give glory to give God. A city cannot be hid when located on the mountain he was likely referring to Hippos – a city on a mountain. A Christian's fine deeds should be visible to all. Back then, cities were located on mountains for safety – rather than valley. The mountain would shine from the lamps at night and light shining on the houses, a light on a lampstand shines on all those in the house. Let you light shine to dispel spitual darkness, in doing this, Jesus followers could be called the Light of th world.

Plants and Animals: Genesis 29 I have given you every seed bearing pland and every tree as seed bearing fruit, let them serve as food for you.

Read B daily and med, stay close to jah's peepl, be active in ministry, bible abso auth on prayer

Do not be selfish when u pray mt 6:9-12

SAT AFTERNOON

I am happy when:

I am conscious of my spiritual need

- *Use all my senses when I do my bible reading.*
- Put myself there. Hear the wind, smell the spices, see the faces ...
- Create the atmosphere and it will help me draw closer to Jah

I mourn

- Mourning and happiness are not mutually exclusive.
- Matt 6, Happy are those who mourn, since they will be comforted.
- Mourn over my sins and be comforted by the provision of the ransom
- One day I will no longer need to ask for forgiveness
- One day mourning and happiness will be mutually exclusive

I am mild-tempered

- Matt 5:5
- Mildness is a sign of inner strength, Greek word described a horse who's training has tamed its unruly nature. (meek, humble and well-trained)
- I will inherit the earth when I am allowed to live here forever in peace and happiness
- Example of son who was not kind to his mom
- Ask J to help us be mild tempered, pry for HS, the most powerful force in the universe.
- Do this regularly? Ask for wisdom to please him best
- 1pe2:21, Christ is our model (that smile again!)
- Avoid being argumentative
- think before speaking (is it loving, truthful, refreshing, upbuilding)
- Overlook injustice if someone has hurt me

I am hungry and thirsting for righteousness (Br Pickett – yay!)

- A person with a strong desire is said to have a hunger (matt 5:6)
- What is the righteousness? Doing what is right according to God's standards
- We want to see injustice replaced by God's standards
- Be guided by those standards personally
- Have a good standing with God.
- The goal is everlasting life in a perfect earth

- Do we prize righteousness so much that we hunger for it?
- Example of young man puffing up his resume
- Look at the small things as well, no such thing as a little lie (taxes?, business dealings, job hunting, etc)
- We want to learn the reasons behind his commands
- Psalms 97:10, love what Jehovah loves, loyal ones are rescued

I am merciful (it wasn't what I thought!) yes, this deserves song

- Mercy in this context is more than leniency, it is kind consideration or pity that brings comfort, it is tender compassion in action
- a merciful person looks for ways to help others.
- Happiness results from this kind of giving
- we put ourselves in line to receive Jah's mercy
- example of dog that keeps getting into neighbor's yard, salty neighbor, how Zach was merciful
- we must be ready to forgive and put up with the saltiness of others, be mentally prepared to forgive others, Jesus said 7x7!
- Eph 4:32, attitude is tender compassion. We have been forgiven so we should be willing to forgive
- Forgiving freely does not mean we minimize wrong behavior but we are willing to let go of resentment rather than nurture it,
- prioritize peace and imitate Jah by forgiving
- the finest way to show mercy is to preach the good news to show love to others.
- Luke 10, the good Samaritan displayed mercy by offering practical assistance
- A merciful person looks for opportunities to display mercy

I am pure in heart

- Jesus focused on the inner person (Matthew 5:8)
- Pure in heart will see God
- The pure in heart is someone morally and spiritually clean, attitudes, motives and desires and in this way they see God (using the eyes of their heart)
- Example of Empire's End – a violent movie – how Zach refined his thinking

I am a peacemaker

- Example of how Zach works to restore peace
- We don't always know what others are facing
- Do not let cobwebs settle between us

- Settling matters quickly does not allow things to get blown out of proportion
- Be a peacemaker, not a peacekeeper (a more proactive approach)
- Avoid taking sides
- Yield to the elders and work with them

I am persecuted by righteousness

- Jesus suffered intense persecution
- Matt 5:10a > happy even when our worship brings opposition
- What can make us happy when we are persecuted 1 pe 2:20, jah rewards endurance
- Example of Zach's dad who was threatening to cut him off
- John 15:20, we will all be persecuted
- He 12:2, look to Jesus example and reward, we can be counted worthy of being dishonored because we are standing up for Jehovah and proving Satan a liar.

People reproach me

- We are like to be liked
- See past the trial to the triumph
- He 11:38, and the world was not worthy of them
- Reproach is temporary, jahovah's approval is eternal
- Haters will hate, jah will exonerate us and our conduct will speak for itself
- John 13:17, happy are you if you do these things. We must be doers
- We will be truly happy how we act
- Continue refining my behavior

Why are you anxious?

- Jehovah will provide what you need – several experiences
- Matt 6:19-22, stop storing up treasures on the earth, store treasures in heaven, where your treasure is, your heart will be also, your eye must be focused so your body can be bright.
- To help us with our anxiety he says stop storing up earthly treasures, store heavenly treasure to motivate us to make jahovah our air.
- I need to store up heavenly treasures by being in service more, this will lead to more personal study.
- My heart has to be involved
- During an eye exam, we use our eyes to track a moving finger, to determine our ability to maintain focus, our spiritual eye doctor identifies that no one can slave for

2 masters. (god and riches) Either I love Jah and hate riches or I hate Jehovah and love riches.

- To deal successfully with anxiety we need to make a firm decision to give Jah exclusive devotion
- Page 4, theme scripture acts 20:35 – there is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving.
- Make Jehovah my air < this is a song!
- The teachings of Jesus that lead to eternal happiness

Final talk of the day

“Go in thru the narrow gate”

By 3 things

1. Stop judging
2. Follow golden rule
3. Produce fine fruit

Matt 7:13-14 two roads, one spacious and easy, one narrow/cramped and hard

1. What is Jesus asking us to do? Matt 7:1-2 Stop Judging, Apply the Golden Rule, Produce fine fruit

2. Why can it be a challenge? Bec it's not easy! We live in a world of judgement. Constantly encouraged to make quick decisions. Criticism is commonplace.

3. How does producing fine fruit lead to happiness? Showing mercy does not mean pretending that nothing happened or that we are not hurt. We just make an active choice to stop judging and we strengthen our relationships, esp w/ Jah. Make sure we are doing the right things with good motives. Jesus moves me to examine my own actions and why I do what I do. Am I acting from a pure heart? Matt 7:24, build house on rock

The reality is the road is narrow and cramped, it's challenging and it takes real effort, but we are all on the road together, millions worldwide, which motivates us to continue doing our best to serve Jah. The end of the journey is beyond anything we can imagine and worth every nerve-wracking moment. *(I thought the Brother might cry!)*

Notes from Day 3 of the 2026 Convention

SUNDAY "Happy are your eyes because they see and your ears because they hear" Matthew 13:16 MORNING 9:20 Music-Video Presentation 9:30 Song No. 68 and Prayer 9:40 SYMPOSIUM: Applying Lessons From Jesus' Illustrations • Four Types of Soil (Matthew 13:18-23) • Wheat and Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30) • Mustard Grain (Matthew 13:31, 32) • Leaven (Matthew 13:33) • Dragnet (Matthew 13:47-50) 11:00 Song No. 64 and Announcements 11:10 PUBLIC BIBLE DISCOURSE: Have You Discovered the Treasure? (Matthew 13:44-46) 11:40 Summary of <i>The Watchtower</i> 12:10 Song No. 140 and Intermission	<i>Sunday</i> AFTERNOON 1:35 Music-Video Presentation 1:45 Song No. 108 1:50 FEATURE BIBLE DRAMA: <i>The Good News According to Jesus: Episode 6</i> <i>"Are You the Coming One?"</i> (Matthew 8:5-13; 11:2-30; 12:22-13:53; Mark 3:19-4:34; Luke 7:1-8:21) 2:35 Song No. 120 and Announcements 2:45 What Did You Learn? 2:55 "Happy Are Your Eyes Because They See" (Matthew 7:1-5; 13:16, 17; Luke 6:46-49; 10:21; John 17:6; James 1:22-25) 3:45 Song No. 163 and Closing Prayer
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Five illustrations:

1) four types of soil, 2) wheat and weeds, 3) mustard grain, 4) leaven, 5) dragnet

Can we see words

Turn ears into eyes – **definitely a song!**

This free us as listeners to think with pictures in our heads

Illustrations teach exciting truths

Four types of heart soil (Matt 13:3 - hard, shallow, crowded, fertile), make time for personal study to develop personal appreciation for Jehovah's spiritual food and grow our relationship with Jehovah. The person who knows Jehovah the best, will do best in times of test. Search for verses that convince me of Jehovah's love. He 3:5-6, phillipians 4:6-7, peace that surpasses all understanding. Rely on Jah when facing life's anxiety. The deceptive power of riches chokes the word.

(SIDE POINT – I asked the dogs to come with me to the convention and they popped up on the bed and went straight to sleep. It's remarkable. They are usually such busy dogs! The door to the bedroom is open, my husband and son are talking in the other room and yet the dogs stay with me. J is blessing me with quiet dogs)

1. Mt 13:24 - Who is the enemy? what does the weed rep? sower of fine seed is the son of man (Jesus), not all who claim to follow Jesus are his disciples. There are 47,000 christian denominations! How can we distinguish between true and false

Christians. John 8:31 genuine Christians adhere closely to bible teaching (not politics for example). And Christians will be identify by their activities – the preaching work. 2nd lesson is that we need to worship along with Jesus genuine anointed followers, support the direction of the faithful slave.

2. Christian Dyson – mustard grain talk – matt 13:31-32, kingdom of heaven is like a mustard grain, tinies seed and larges tree

Our actions may appear to be as small as a mustard grain, but Jehovah may be preparing to grow it into something magnificent. ☺

3. Matt 13:33 Leaven gets mixed in and is hidden from view, spreads slowly, and then real change takes place, jesus used this illustration (flour=people, leaven=kingdom message, the spreading process=preaching work) trust Jehovah to make the kingdom message grow. Our role is to plan and water, Jah causes the increase. Sow your seed in the morning and do not rest until the evening, people are watching our conduct.

4. ???White Oak/Silver Spring – Horatio McDowney DRAGNET was used to teach us a vital lesson Matt 13:47-50, kingdom of heavens is a dragnet, collecting the fine ones into containers and threw out the unsuitable. The angels will sort. The question is not Why is jesus comparing us to smelly fish, but what is our suitability right now? The container is the Christian congregation. Many assoc with JWs come to memorial, but not all take a stand, cant convince themselves to make a commitment. A platinum red tailed catfish is worth 10K, but a fish is not suitable. We have to control our suitability, our value. Jah is looking for people willing to take a stand on his side. I am in the dragnet and I want to be in suitable container. I have to avoid falling into some lifestyles (1cor7: 29-31) notice these: family life, sacrifices, world conditions, riches these should not stop a person from taking a stand on Jehovah's side. V31 says scene of this world is changing. V29 time is reduced. Get busy!! What good would it be to misestimate the time?? 2 chron 16:9 he is looking about to see who is responding. There is only one govt that can fix our problems so isn't that the govt we should be supporting? Jehovah said whoever is not on my side, is against me. When it comes to serving god, we need to take sides with Jehovah. Do you have a strong sense of justice? Only you can choose your side. Don't be afraid to do what you know is right. Ray told the story of his sister and she asked for a study, but Ray didn't do it. She went to website and requested a study. She is now baptized. He is such a dear brother. Jehovah sees those who take a stand as precious. Did you get the sense of this? Great question because it spans time. Did we hear the illustration? Are we a master of the house – use everything we know to

apply these 5 lessons (*I need to listen to this symposium again!!!. I missed a lot just trying to take notes.*)

Public Talk: Have you discovered the treasure? 30 minutes

- How did I discover the treasure? Many ways, the fact remains that all of us have discovered something of great value.
- Lessons we can learn from Jesus illustrations, mt 13, this helps us appreciate the precious truth about the kingdom of the heavens, during the video those illustrations will be highlighted, find the pearls in the scriptures, both men recognized the value of the treasure then took action to secure it, they are worthy of our imitation
- Value of illustrations: false religion may have a semblance of the truth, like a fake diamond, it shines but it is still fake, they may have some moral uprightness, but clearly they teach things not consistent with the bible. Truth worship requires that we live our lives in harmony with all righteous principles and spiritual truths

Video example of a boy who loved creation, rejected evolution, studying everything that was not satisfying and learned the truth from his friend on the basis of the sermon on the mount. He said “Finally, the door opened and sunlight flooded over me” < now that’s a line for a song And he says he knew he found the truth.

- How we can appreciate the value and claim the treasure, abstain from all forms of wickedness 1thes 5:21-22, what some had to do in order to take hold of the treasure (start studying, let go of certain habits like smoking, stop participating in holidays, then opposition started (mom disowned him), this caused him to get baptized, had to reject a job that went against his new principles, no way he was giving up his pearl, went to work as a const laborer, later he married. The eg of a woman who had been misled by the church, this caused her to face a lot of opposition and became an unbaptized publisher, neighbors treated her like an enemy, her own sister yelled at her that she was crazy, mom would hit her if she preached to visitors, burned her mags and clothes, refused her food. The day she was getting baptized, she was not going to live there anymore. She packed all her things. Her mom is also now a witness, along with her sister.

- What benefits can we have by keeping the treasure, everlasting life in the future, this is a blessing. Regardless of how you find them, let's show=Jah that we appreciate and value them by exerting ourselves vigorously in these tumultuous times, hold tightly.

Video Part 6

Example of Jesus resurrecting the widow's son. Very touching. And again the joy on Jesus's face to do what he was able to do with Jehovah's holy spirit. *It was interesting in the moments before the boy revived, Jesus looked pensive, like something was difficult for him.*

I realize the smile thing is coming entirely from the videos created by the Society. But this is HELPING me visualize, to imagine what perfection looks like on a human, to see that glow, and even wonder, on Jesus face about all the things his father will do for his people.

John the Baptist sent men to ask Jesus if he was the coming one and in that hour he healed and expelled wicked spirits and granted many people sight. Jesus said ... Go report to John, lepers are being cleansed, the dead are raised up, the blind can see, the deaf can hear and the poor are being told the good news. Happy is the one who finds no cause for stumbling in me.

Wo was in jail?? (caught a glimpse of a jail cell)

You went to see a prophet and far more than a prophet.

There is no one greater than John, a lesser person in the kingdom of God is greater than him.
??

John is Elijah who is to come

Wisdom is proved righteous by its works.

Who was the woman crying in the video? Was she the one who had the demon Jesus expelled?

Jesus went to dine with a Pharisee who kept asking. Oh... and then the woman shows up with oil and she wept and cleaned his feet with her tears and her hair and kissed his feet and then she put oil on them. The Pharisee said to himself, if this man were really a prophet he would know what kind of woman is touching him, that she is a sinner. So Jesus addressed him and said, do you see this woman? I entered your house and you gave me not water for my feet and this woman cried on my feet and wiped me with her hair and kissed my feet Read this Bible example and imagine it again the way Jesus spoke it on

the video. Because of this.. her sins, many tho they are, are forgiven because she loved much. But the one who is forgiven little, loves little.

Jesus said to her “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace”

Shortly afterward, he travelled from city to city and village to village

Jesus speaks about the blasphemy against the spirit will not be forgiven

For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks (what does this say about me when I lose patience with finn??)

The scribes asked him for a sign – like they had not see enough!

Make friendship with Jehovah as our priority. We will be happier.

Go in through hteh narrow gate – stop judging others and make forgiveness a priority.

Keep busy in the kingdom work, jesus showed compassion for the sick and the lowly.

The lepper said, “If you just want to, you can make me clean” .and Jesus said “I want to.”
The emotion of that moment was incredible.

We can imitate Jesus by using simple illustrations to teach important lessons

Illustrations of the soil-Cultivate the soil of our heart

Wheat and weeds – take our stand in the work.

Mustard seed- illustrate the dramatic growth of the congregation and we can contribute

Leaven -the power of the kingdom message to spread and change lives

Dragnet – people need to do more than be attracted to the message, we must choose to take a side

What does it mean to see spiritually?

Final talk – happy are your eyes because they see

Imagine becoming blind, living in the dark, no longer to enjoy a child’s smile, the vivid colors of flowers, the majesty of a sunset. Then imagine your reaction upon seeing again. Breathtaking wonder; overwhelmed with joy. No words needed. And again, what if the first thing you saw was that smile on Jesus’s face. Stunning!

Jesus said his disciples would experience a similar kind of happiness Matt 13:16

How could some not respond to Jesus Matt 13: 15-16. Why? Because their hearts were unreceptive, they like the blindness, they prefer the dark

Watching Jesus brought them closer to Jah. **Do my eyes see?**

My notes are getting sloppy.

LAST TALK OF THE DAY

Humility, Obedience and Sacrifice

HUMILITY

- Jesus disciples were truly humble, Can you imagine working with Jesus in field service? How fascinating. But in contrast, the pharisees were proud and arrogant.
- *I just realized he whole 3 days was based a lot on the books of Matthew. Isn't it interesting that my first impactful experience of the weekend was the tiny scene between matthew, Jesus and simon?* Matthew was a sinner and yet Jehovah used him by holy spirit to give us so much grace, so much mercy and so much insight on Jesus personality.
- Matthew 7:1-5 – Jesus shows that our lack of humility blinds us to our faults.
- Sometimes we apply it to others, “I hope brother so and so heard that counsel.”
- Stop judging others
- Humility helps us to not be critical. **Hmmm... does this mean if we are critical, we are not humble?**
- Humble eyes see clearly.
- Humbler hearts will truly be happy.

OBEDIENCE

- Get in through the narrow door. Obedience is not easy. Luke 6:17
- Luke 6:46 <do the things I say.
- John 17:6 < they had obedient hearts
- Obstacles that pose a challenge for new ones to obey, being too busy, fear of opposition, the deceptive power of riches, how can we keep our spiritual priorities (Mt 6:22) from being crowded out? We need focus.

SACRIFICE

(continue to move forward in sacrifice to advance the work)

Need to watch the video to take these notes. I was getting tired and had a few interruptions from family members about the time for dinner. 😊 (The detractor to a stay-cay convention)

Now watching previews for episodes 7 and 8.

Luke 10:21 notice how Jesus felt when he saw spiritually blind get sight

(by the way, once in a while the dogs asked to go out of the room. Then within 20 minutes or so they would knock the door and ask to come back. I thought that was sweet.)

Happy are these eyes because they see <<< is this a new song?

Our spiritual vision is a precious gift.