

## Now You See Me, Now You Don't

John 14:15-31



*What is the best disappearing act you have ever seen?*

David Copperfield, the famous illusionist, was renowned for his ability to make things disappear. In large outdoor venues and in broad daylight, he managed to seemingly make himself, an elephant, and even the Statue of Liberty disappear. The crowds, the camera crews, the TV audiences, saw him one moment, and in the next he was gone.

Of course, David Copperfield, or the objects he used on stage, did not *really* disappear. They became obscured to the view of the crowd, but those working with him knew exactly where he or his objects were and could see them perfectly well.

Just before His death on the cross, Jesus told those closest to Him that He too was about to be obscured from the eyes of the world, but not from the eyes of those who are His. The precondition to be able to see Jesus, even though the rest of the world does not, is love. He will reveal Himself to those who love Him.

Jesus goes on to clarify that this love is not a sentimental feeling; He is not talking about the warm-fuzzies here. The love that Jesus is looking for is much more tangible, much more observable. Love means obeying His commands. Just so we don't miss it, Jesus equates love with obedience three times in this passage (14:15,21,23). Those who love are careful to obey; those who obey, love; those who love will be loved by the Father and will reside with God. Those who love and therefore obey will be comforted and helped by the Holy Spirit.

There is no need be discouraged, Jesus says. His disappearance is only an illusion. Those who love Him will be able to see Him perfectly well.

*How well do you love Jesus? How well do you see Him?*

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This devotion appears in MB Seminary's 2019 Easter devotions book called ***Taking Flight***. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, this book will guide you through 47 daily readings, written by members of the Mennonite Brethren family throughout Canada. These devotionals are written for people of various ages so that families and small groups can interact with the ideas and consider applications together.

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