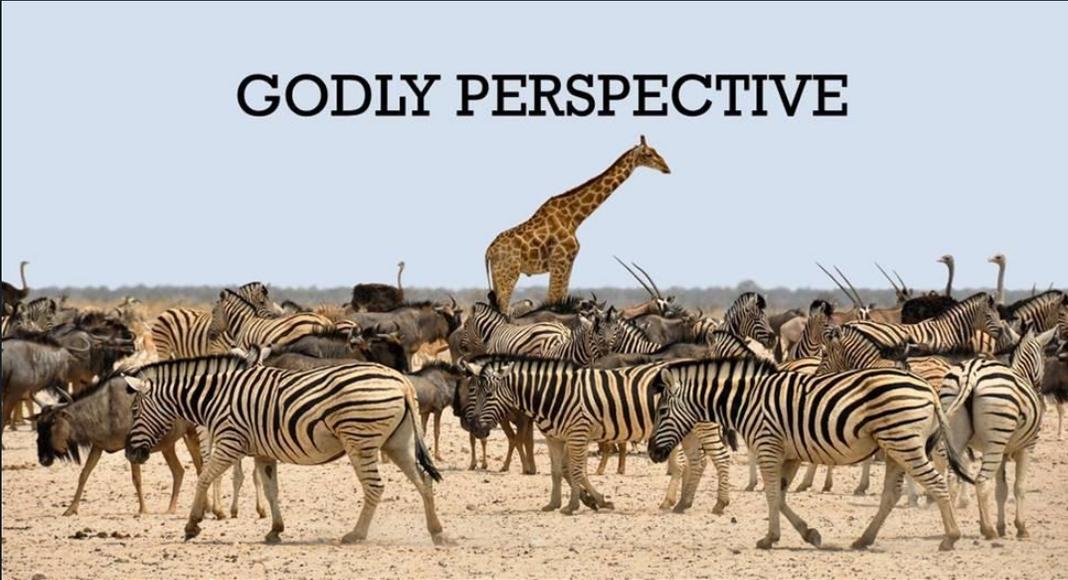


SUN CITY SERMON NOTES

02.06.19

GODLY PERSPECTIVE



We want to change the world; we start by making the bed. Admiral William McRaven: (shares about 'keystone habits' – some things that kick start patterns of other good behaviour) "If you want to change the world, start off by making your bed. If you make your bed every morning, you will have accomplished the first task of the day. It will give you a small sense of pride, and it will encourage you to do another task, and another, and another. And by the end of the day that one task completed will have turned into many tasks completed."

For believers there are some little things that we need to practice daily. Just as we eat, drink, wash, work, sleep daily ... in Christ, we remain soft and strong if we'll be in the word, in prayer, in fellowship, share what we have... these things seem little but left aside allow other things to grow and take their place – some of these things are great things, but a great thing in the wrong order is an obstacle. These might seem like non-event things to talk about – but we must first be trustable in the little before we are trusted with true riches.

To have a godly perspective, we need to see/think/perceive the way Father does. Our thoughts won't be as high as God's, but we need to aim higher if we agree it is our privilege to lift people. Our thoughts may need to aim further; sometimes we need to focus; sometimes we need to prioritise but what or however, what we choose to see and understand, our perceptions are hugely important. Samuel the prophet knew that God doesn't see as a man sees – He looks at the heart.

Stimulating
Wholesome Thinking

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1. To have a godly perspective, we need to see/think/perceive the way Father does
2. Godly perspective is fully persuaded God is who He says He is; fully persuaded God will do what He says He will do, whether the natural eyes see it or not

Hebrews 11:1 'Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.'

First, we can look briefly at some perceptions and see things that can result in part because of them and then we will look at Godly perspective from God's view of Abraham.

- Cain's perception of God's attitude towards Abel's offering (?) (Sin had already separated man from God; now it is about to separate man from man – pattern for society ever since). Serving God together; bringing an offering together should have forged great love but Cain was looking at something else – anger rose, and Cain rose up and killed his brother.

Need to take care how we *perceive* others are being treated. Thinking about what others are thinking about is a preposterous notion – speculation at highest level. (Story of little girl in callipers in a relay race, falls over and says, 'look Mummy, they're winning!')

- Jonah's perception of the Ninevites was so strong he chose to go away from the presence of the Lord. The Lord was present to heal, to save, to restore Nineveh – a whole people group of people – 120,000 people who didn't know their right hand from their left. Can a nation change? Be careful what our perceptions are towards other nations? Can a Jonah change?

Our personal answers to these things matter because they reflect our real perceptions.

- Elijah – knew the Lord; heard the Lord; undeniable power and prophetic gifts; undeniable miracles; brilliant results – turned a nation around who were mixed in their perceptions of who was worth serving. Who are you going to serve? Why does a nation waver? Our perceptions are very strong things. Jesus spoke of this in Luke 16 – can't serve two masters – you might be able to love two masters, but you cannot serve two. Loyalty is a fierce and incredibly honourable concept.

Elijah had taken the pitfall of 'I'm the only one left' – this perception is particularly dangerous, and we see the outcomes in 1 Kings 19. Father had 7,000 left who hadn't bowed to the baals.

- Gehazi looked out and saw he and Elisha were surrounded; how's this going to end? "Do not be afraid," Elisha answered, "for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ¹⁷Then Elisha prayed, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw that the hills were full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.'

It is important to see correctly.

- Esther – we remember that Mordecai challenged her on her perspective – perhaps her initial thoughts arose from being so far removed from what was

going on outside the four walls... but she saw what could happen to the nation and stood up for it.

- Gideon (the smallest man in the smallest family in the smallest clan in the smallest tribe) – don't judge him by the flippers ☺ See Judges 6:12-22

So, what is Godly perspective?

- It isn't reading into what you see happening with others (Cain)
- It isn't allowing historical events to cancel your obedience (Jonah)
- It isn't making big decisions when you're tired (Elijah)
- It isn't being fearful when you perceive you are compassed all about (Elisha)
- It isn't hiding behind a false identity (Esther)
- It isn't making excuses based on natural identity (Gideon)

Abraham. Hebrews 11:8-16

Godly perspective is fully persuaded God is who He says He is; fully persuaded God will do what He says He will do, whether the natural eyes see it or not. God calls these in Hebrews 11 the 'greats' – confessing they are passing through but all the while looking for, grabbing hold of and declaring the promises of God, for a better future - families loving God and raising children's children to love God – blessed to thousands of generations because they love Him; is that not enough reason to love God first.

- * Key verse: Hebrews 11:1 'Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.'
- * Paraphrased: *'Now faith is – being assured that every word God has spoken about Himself and what He'll do can be confidently expected. The proving of this, the proof of this in us is our declaration and practice of the truths we've heard'*
- * It is faith that 'greatens' a man for the purposes of God. The Church are now the 'great ones' with the absolute call and privilege to look *for* things, the better things, the eternal things – as our perceptions line up with Father's eternal truths, we see Him performing His Word as we declare it.