**God’s perspective 2 17 Nov 2019**

Last week I talked about how God has a different perspective than us

We often focus on what will make us happy, our needs, our future, our concerns.

V

But God sees our lives in the context of eternity.

Do you remember the string?

So I’ve been thinking around

**How do we get God’s perspective on our lives?**

**How do we live lives that are pleasing to Him?**

**How do we live doing what God wants us to do?**

It’s not easy because every day we’re faced with

* bills which have to be met,
* wants and desires that we’d like
* ambitions and dreams
* And things get in the way, which delay our best laid plans - sickness, upset, other people

But it occurred to me if we spend our weeks

- trying to meet our needs as our focus,

- or pursuing things to make us happy

And God is working on his eternal perspective of bringing the kingdom on the earth today….

We are going to be totally out of sorts / at logger heads with God

Our lives will be like a tug of war

(God going in one direction and if we’re pursuing what we want in life – it’s not going to be a great experience.

If we’re walking in step with Him, pulling in the same direction, it’ll be a lot more fulfilling)

* If you feel stressed, like you’re not getting where you want to in life

God says

**28**“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29**Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30**For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

So the question is…

**How do we live with God’s perspective, and do what he wants us to do yet still function in this world, meeting the bills etc and finding fulfilment?**

1. **Our outlook has to change**

If we go back to the situation of Joshua and the city of Jericho

Jericho was a walled city, apparently there were two walls around the city, made of mud bricks and the outside wall was built on a stone base. So there was no way in through the walls which leaves the gates into the city and

Joshua chapter 6 starts by clearer stating what the situation was

Josh 6:1

“now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites.

**No-one went out and no one came in.”**

It’s as if the bible is making it really clear that it is impossible for Joshua to take the city

But if we go on to the very next verse it says

“Then the Lord said to Joshua ‘**See! / Look!’**

* Joshua is like ‘I’m looking and the walls are really high and the gates are locked and no one is getting in or out!!!!!”

…..So that can’t be an ordinary look what’s in front of you, because the situation has already been described (Jericho was secure and no-one went in or out)

* ….that’s a ‘**look with my perspective and see what I am doing in the spirit’**

**…. I have delivered Jericho into your hands!**

What God saw and what Joshua saw were two totally different things

Joshua saw a walled city with no way in

God saw Joshua conquering the city and everything in it.

**We’ve talked about kingdom glasses before - it’s like we have to learn to live our human, earthly lives with Kingdom glasses on.**

With kingdom glasses on –

* we don’t see people as a problem, or as our Christian duty to be nice too - we see their worth and potential
* we don’t see difficulties as God not answering ours prayer or not existing – we see them as him refining the rubbish in us, to make us more like him

Romans 8 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who[[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-28145i" \o "See footnote i)] have been called according to his purpose. **29**For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that Jesus might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

* We don’t see things that don’t happen straight away as God being tight, or deliberately withholding good things from us, - we see it as we’re still being prepared

Ephesians 2 - For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**So how do we live with kingdom glasses on?**

**How do we see what God sees rather than what we see in the natural?**

In John 9 – Jesus heals a blind man

This guy was born blind, so he’s never seen what he should have seen.

The overly religious people ask if he’s blind because he sinned.

V 3 Jesus says “No! This happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of Him who sent me.”

1. **We must have a desire to do the works of God / to see them displayed**

Quick show of hands….

Q1 = How many of us would love to see a miracle today?

Q2 = How many of us are willing to pray with a unbeliever before the end of today?

It’s easy to say we’d like to see a miracle, it’s a very different thing to pray with someone.

If you’re serious about wanting to see the kingdom come through your life – ask God for a fresh desire to see the works of God displayed.

* If you’re apathetic, start by asking God to make you hungry

“I want more of you God”

How different would our lives be if we saw every depressed, sick, worried, addicted, broke person as an opportunity for the works of God to be displayed in their lives?

V 5 Jesus said “while I am in the world, I am the light of the world”

What did he say about us?

Matthew 5:14

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16**In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Read John 9 v 6 & 7

1. **God always uses something to create something new with**

It can be words – he created loads with his spoken word

It can be something more tangible – with the dust of the earth he created Adam,

In this story, he used mud to give the man his sight

**Q = What can you give God to work with?**

We’re not all evangelists, but we can all give someone an invitation

We’re not all church leaders, but we all have homes and food we can share

Maybe none of us will ever change the world, but we can all change someone’s world

In 2 Kings 4, Elijah said to a very poor widow, who’s sons were about to be taken into slavery to pay her debts…..what have you got in your house?

* She had nothing but a small jar of oil but she gave that to the man of God and out of that God did a miracle which got her out of debt and poverty

**What have you got God that he can work with?**

Read John 9 V 6 – 7

1. **It takes action**

Last week I read from Romans 8 – the whole of creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of the kingdom to be revealed.

We sing “way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper, light in the darkness,

My God that is who you are.”

Someone out there is waiting, longing

- for you to turn up and pray in a miracle for them,

- for you to share with them the God you know,

- for you to suggest a creative solution that changes their situation for good

- for you to bring healing, restoration, wholeness into their lives

My challenge as you leave here today is…..

Will you put your kingdom glasses on?

Will you ask the Holy Spirit to enable you to see what He sees

And offer God what you have for Him to use, to display His glory

And then take action when you have the opportunity?

**Conclusion**

Matthew 6: 25 – 33