

Week 29: Seeing Jesus in Our Outlook/Perspective toward Life

Scripture: Deuteronomy 11:18-21, Proverbs 17:24, Ecclesiastes 3:1-14, John 4:34-38, Romans 8:5-8, 12:1-2, 15:5, 2 Corinthians 5:16-19, Ephesians 4:17-24, Philippians 2:5-11, 4:8-9, Colossians 3:1-17, 1 John 4:4-6

Devotional:

In the original Star Wars trilogy, Luke Skywalker is introduced to an ongoing struggle between good and evil, and begins to train to become a Jedi so that he can fight for the cause of the good. Luke eventually enters training with the old and puppet-looking Jedi knight named Yoda. The training is hard for Luke. He has begun the process at an older age than most, so he has difficulty letting go of the view of the world he'd learned all his life, and taking hold of the mindset a Jedi needs to be effective. As Yoda works on this with Luke, he emphasizes this point, saying to Luke, "You must unlearn what you have learned."

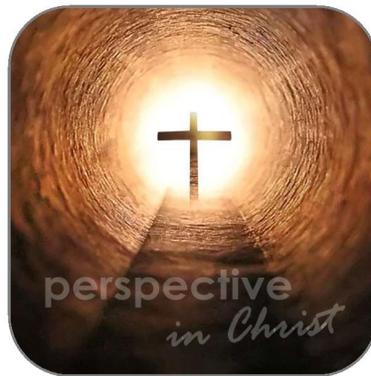
"You must unlearn what you have learned." As I reflected about what it means to have a Christian perspective in life, that little quote of Yoda's stuck in my mind. Especially when we are young and growing up, we spend much of our childhood forming a perspective on life. Most of the time we aren't even aware we are doing this, but it happens all the same. Based on our environment and experiences we form perspectives on what the world is like, how we need to react to things, what makes us safe, and what we need to do to survive in the world. By the time we are adults, these perspectives are so a part of us that we typically don't even notice them driving our lives. And it isn't easy to bring about a change in perspective.

But a change in perspective is what following Jesus Christ calls for and brings. Even if we had the best childhood of anyone on earth, our perspective is still going to be tainted by the brokenness in the world and in us. Following Jesus is a process of unlearning these things we have sometimes spent all our lives learning. In Romans 12:2, the Apostle Paul puts it this way, "Do not be conformed any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." You must unlearn what you

have learned. Believing and following Jesus gives us a new perspective on life and the world. It also gives us a new perspective on our lives and the way we live them. God does this perspective-changing work in us through the Holy Spirit and our engagement with him. It is hard work. It is a life-long process. But in the end God is giving to us the perspective we were always meant to have, and the life we were always meant to live. What pieces of your perspective do you need to unlearn in this season? How is the Spirit leading you to engage with him in this process as you go forward in Christ?

Song

"Take My Life
(Holiness)"



Activity

At the outset of each day reflect on the things before you. Then reflect on how the perspective of your identity in Christ impacts how you approach them.

Memory Verse:

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Questions to reflect on this week:

- How have I seen Jesus in the **B**ible?
- How have I seen Jesus in the **L**ove I show toward God/others?
- How have I seen Jesus in **E**arth he's created?
- How have I seen Jesus in **P**rayer?
- How have I seen Jesus in the **O**thers he's placed before me?

[**BLEPO**: means "to see" in Greek]

Seeing Jesus is believing in Him!



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