

2/27/22

att 28

FB 15

Sermon – Expand Your Viewpoint

Scripture – Mathew Chapter 5

Main Message: Grow your appreciation for others viewpoint and bring new peace to the world.

If you give a young child a toy hammer, everything looks like a nail. Your head, the table, the pet; everything becomes the nail. Why? Because we have narrowed the perspective of the child by giving him a single point of view and a single purpose. As we grow up and experience other things, well, we are not quite that simplistic... *or are we?* The issue is and will always be one of perspective. It is safe to say that our worldly perspective is often times wrong, or at best incomplete. Whether it be by stress, or habit driven by routine, we all tend to revert back to our childhood vision of the world and it takes a fresh look to not see everything as a nail. We take the path of least resistance and work to keep things simple. Sometimes they are not.

For instance...

If you are a policeman, what type of people and situation are you often times around, Crime. If you're an engineer you see mouse traps that can be improved upon, whether it needs it or not. What about a teacher, a social worker, a carpenter, a parent? Every role that requires our time and attention because it is important to us, tends to skew our viewpoint, putting us out of balance with the rest of the world and perhaps, we fail to see clearly other points of view. frustrated when things just don't go like we think they should. Sadly, it appears that as we get older, we can have a tendency to revert back to that simplistic viewpoint that everything is a nail. We must resist that progression and continue to broaden our perspective on a matter. Christ wants us to continue growing to be more and more like him.

Jesus taught about perspective all the time. If you read scripture with this angle, you will see it leap off the page. Remember the lesson about a good Samaritan? Jesus changed the scholar's perspective about, "who really is your neighbor?" Anyone who can show mercy.

I encourage you to read some scripture with this thought in mind occasionally and see what it will show you. We have read many times that God has given different gifts of the spirit and each of us is a different part of the Body of Christ. So we are by design, not the same. We need to appreciate the vantage point of others and its hard to do. We often hear it through a qualifying ear. We will then say, YES BUT.

But lets go to some scripture and read it with this focus.

Mathew chapter 5

Look at how Jesus broadens the perspective on so many issues. This opens the pathway to acceptance, understanding, and spiritual and emotional growth. We must not become rigid and self righteous about how things must be. The narrow viewpoint is not God's view. That is our view. The Judgmental perspective of our wrongness does not honor God who made us all. that does not build up but often destroys.

Jesus brought hope, a goal, an opportunity and a new perspective to those who want to grow.

Clearly Jesus showed that there is more than one viewpoint on a matter. We need to consider the same.