

DAY 1 - (week beginning Mon 4 Feb 2019)

Read - 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (NIV)

“Brothers and sisters think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.” vs 26-29

The topic for the week is ‘How God sees us’. I often think that God must be so disappointed in us as humans. 21st Century human-beings are so wrapped up in this world that it is difficult not to boast about our achievements before God. When actually we need to give God all the glory.

God is so amazing that He contradicts everything that we as humans think or do that we like to boast about; it is the foolish, weak and lowly things that matter to God. Therefore, it is Grace that contradicts boasting.

For we see that through Jesus dying on the cross, He literally turned everything upside down Christ dying for our sins gives all glory to God; we can take no credit ourselves.

We can not save ourselves only Jesus can do that.

Prayer: Dear God thank you for sending Jesus to turn this world upside down. To contradict all that we believe and show us the right way.

DAY 2

Read - 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (NIV)

“It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.” v 30

I remember when I first gave my life to Christ and I was born again. I knew I had changed because my outlook on life was different, the way I spoke to people or about people changed, the way I reacted to situations, was with more understanding, more tolerance, more forgiveness - completely different to who I was before.

I felt alive; I felt a new passion for life. I was not afraid of anything and truly believed that I could do anything and everything through Christ who gives me strength.

I still have that feeling today. For I know it is God that gives me the wisdom and the understanding to deal with every situation, only through Jesus. Because it is through the eyes of Jesus that we see true wisdom, righteous, holiness and the redemption that makes all this possible.

Only through Jesus do we see what God wants us to see. If we only look at the world through our own eyes, we only see the things of this world and not the greater things of God’s world. When we see things through God’s eyes, we discover life.

Prayer: Dear God open our eyes to see what You see in us.

DAY 3

Read - John 1:40-42 (NIV)

“And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter)”. v 42

The all-knowing God sees who we really are and through Jesus tells Cephas (Peter) who he really is. This is amazing when you think about it, for God only changed a few people’s names in Scripture and they were to be very important people that played a huge role in the Kingdom of God.

Through all of Peter’s ups and downs, the Lord Jesus remained his loving Lord and faithful Guide. Jesus reaffirmed Simon as Peter, the “Rock,” in Matthew 16:18-19, promising that he would be instrumental in establishing Jesus’ Church. After His resurrection, Jesus specifically named Peter as one who needed to hear the good news (Mark 16:7). And, repeating the miracle of the large catch of fish, Jesus made a special point of forgiving and restoring Peter and re-commissioning him as an apostle (John 21:6, 15-17).

God also knows each one of us. We are special to Him for He sees things differently than we do.

Prayer: Dear God thank You for Your love even when we disappoint You in so many ways, continue to guide us in the right direction like you did with Peter.

DAY 4**Read - Matthew 3:13-17 (NIV)**

“But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me? Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.” vs 14-15

Strange how John the Baptist saw things - maybe just like we do today. John was under the impression that he was not worthy, and it just would not be right to baptize Jesus. So, Jesus turns things upside down and says no you need to do this because I need to fulfil the prophesies.

Origen of the 3rd century explains it like this: By this act Jesus showed himself to be “meek and lowly in heart” (Mt 11:29), coming to those inferior to him, doing all that followed in order to humble himself and become obedient “unto death”.

I find it very ironic that people always ask me the Minister to pray for the food that we are about to eat, as if I have this special one on one connection with God. I often wonder why this is? Is it just out of respect or do people see themselves not worthy like John.

God sees things we can never imagine hence God uses people in the most amazing ways so that He can build His Kingdom here on earth as it is in Heaven.

Prayer: Dear God use us as you used John to do the work here on earth.

DAY 5**Read - Matthew 3:13-17 (NIV)**

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” vs 16-17

Verse 16 says ‘At that moment heaven was opened, and **he saw** the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him’. Those two words ‘he saw’ stand out for me. Did only Jesus see or did everybody else also see. I wonder if the people around Jesus saw only the dove or did they see God’s Spirit too?

I think they only saw the dove, however, they must have gotten such a fright when a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.’

In hindsight we can see what Jesus sees. But in reality, we are blind to the things of God. It is only when we believe and accept Jesus as our personal Saviour that our eyes are opened to see what is happening in the Kingdom of God.

Even then, we may ‘see’ for a moment, but then get caught up again in our busy lives and the insight is gone. When we ‘see’ it must linger so it can have a lasting, life-changing effect on how we see ourselves – renewing our mind.

Prayer: Dear God open our eyes to see Your Kingdom through the eyes of Jesus.

DAY 6**Read – Ephesians 1:3-14**

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.” vs 3-6

The 1st chapter of Ephesians is an excellent list of some of the ways God sees us in Christ.

We find that God has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. In Christ we have been equipped with all we need. 2 Peter 1:3 - 4 echoes this truth.

We also see that we are chosen that we should be holy and blameless before God because we are in Christ and we are also being made holy through the process of sanctification. 2Cor 3:18 tells us we are being transformed into the image of Christ. And most importantly we are adopted to be His sons and daughters only through Christ.

This is the Good News: "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God" Col 1:3.

Prayer: Dear God thank You that we are fearfully and wonderfully made in Your image and in Your likeness. Help us see ourselves as You do.