

DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

Something my daughter and I have been doing this summer is playing tennis. I used to play tennis quite a bit as a teenager and made it onto my high school team one year. Even when I went off to university, I would find time to play tennis with some of my friends there. Nadine and I have played from time to time over the years but nothing on a consistent basis. It was actually while Nadine and I were playing tennis one day 18 years ago that we picked up on the fact she might be pregnant.

Eighteen years later I am now playing tennis with my daughter, and I am quite impressed how quickly she is picking up on the game. She has a natural serve that lands in the service box on a consistent basis. We have not played games against each other yet, but we do engage in some pretty intense rallies. When I used to play in my teens I was in pretty good shape and could get to balls quite easily. Now I tend to sweat more profusely and breathe more heavily.

Something that Coral has been noticing is that after every rally I will walk over slowly to retrieve the ball we just played even though we may still have one or two more in our pockets to hit out. From her perspective she sees this as a sign that I am getting slower in my old age. I have a different perspective however when it comes to my actions. I see it as wisdom on my part conserving my energy so I can come back and start the next rally breathing less heavily. My actions on the tennis court are a reminder of how two people can see the very same thing but have a different perspective of it.

Being reminded of this got me thinking how sometimes God has a different perspective of a reality than we do. One of the best examples we find in Scripture is God's call to Moses found in Exodus chapters 3 and 4. When Moses approached the burning bush and discovered he was standing on holy ground God shared with him what His plan was:

Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt. (Exodus 3:10)

From God's perspective, Moses was the most qualified person to do this. He was raised in Egypt and knew the culture, and also had spent many years of his life as a shepherd which would come in handy when leading the Israelites

to the Promised Land. Moses did not have the same perspective that God did that he was the right person for this responsibility. Moses had a very negative perspective about his qualifications:

- **Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt? (Exodus 3:11)**
- **What if they won't believe me or listen to me? What if they say, "The Lord never appeared to you?" (Exodus 4:1)**
- **O Lord, I'm not very good with words. I never have been, and I'm not now, even though You have spoken to me. I get tongue tied and my words get tangled. (4:10)**
- **Lord please! Send anyone else. (Exodus 4:13)**

From Moses' perspective he was the least qualified person to do what God was asking of him. God had a totally different perspective here than Moses did.

So often we can look at situations that may arise in our lives with the same negative perspective as Moses did. The reason why Moses had such a negative perspective was **he failed to include God's help in the picture**. Sometimes we can make this same mistake. We are in good company if we have made this error because not only Moses did but David did too. As we read through many of the psalms he wrote, David portrayed a negative perspective of the challenges he was facing.

It can be our human nature at times to embrace this negative perspective. In these moments it is so important for us to focus upon our spiritual nature rather than our human one. God had to finally get angry with Moses to switch his perspective to include God in the picture. By making this transition Moses finally realized he could meet this challenge trusting that God would be there with him giving him the right words, strength, courage and help whenever needed.

The way David often made this change in perspective from his human nature to a more spiritual one was through spending time in prayer. Psalm 13 provides us with one such example where prayer turned David's perspective from a negative one to a more positive one by trusting in God's goodness and unfailing love.

Just like Moses and David we too can change the way we see the challenges before us from a negative perspective to a more positive one. ***The key in being able to do this is to spend time in prayer*** so that we will be able to approach our situation from a positive perspective knowing that God's help and unfailing help will be with us.

It is true we can all have a different perspective of the very same thing. Perhaps some people reading this will have the same perspective as Coral does that my slow walk to retrieve the tennis ball is an indicator of my age and lack of conditioning. Those reading this that are 59 or older may have the same perspective that I do that my actions show wisdom in trying to conserve my energy. One thing that Coral and I do see on the tennis court that we have the same perspective of is that it is fun and a good workout!

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean