



## DEVOTIONALS: 7 – 13 August 2022

### LOOKING AT LIFE THRU GOD'S GLASSES

#### “Looking at Life Through Colored Glasses”

Luke 17:11-19

Have you heard the expression, “Looking at the world through rose-colored glasses?” The person who looks at the world through rose-colored glasses sees only that which is good in the world, or that which he or she wants to see. Perhaps the person who would accuse another person of wearing these peculiar metaphorical glasses might imagine that he is looking at the world through clear glasses, realistically, without bias.

But is it possible, really, to look at the world through untinted lenses? Don't we all tend to look at life through a particular perspective? A person has just gone through a crisis and may be bitter; for that

person no one may be trustworthy, everyone has ulterior motives, and the world is basically an unfriendly place. Another person who is chronically ill might see the world as a caring place, with persons who show that care on a daily basis. Another person in the same circumstances might see the world as a place of pain. Some people see the world as a place where the possibilities to learn something new are limitless, a place where there is so much to see and do, and they want to learn and see and do. Others see life as dull, routine, where nothing new ever happens. There are those who see the world as a very imperfect place, and their job is to find the imperfections and point them out. It's the same world, looked at through different lenses.

The point is that everyone has a perspective through which he or she views life. That perspective can and often does change as our experiences change, but two people having the same experiences can respond to them in vastly different ways.

Jesus heals ten lepers (Jesus heals 10 Lepers - Luke 17:11-19), yet only one returns to give thanks. Only one was thankful enough to thank the one who healed him. What were the metaphorical lenses through which the other nine looked at the world? Bitterness from what they had experienced? Were they still angry at God? Maybe Albert Schweitzer was right when he said all were undoubtedly grateful, but the other nine were in a hurry to get on with life. Maybe their lenses were more like mirrors; they could only see themselves and their own desires.

Each of us has a kind of set of lenses through which we view and respond to life. Experiences help to shape those perspectives, but our perspectives also determine how we view our experiences. The attitude toward life which Holy Scripture advises us to take on is that of thankfulness. Psalm 95 says, “Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving.” In Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians, he says, “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

The apostle Paul in his own life had this attitude toward life. Paul was the spiritual father of many of the New Testament churches, and he took very seriously his responsibility for their nurture in the faith. If a church needed encouragement, he encouraged them. If a church was on the wrong track, he didn't hesitate to tell them so. Such was the case with the church in Corinth, a church which the apostle himself started.

Corinth was a wealthy Greek city and was rather well-known for its loose morals. The free-thinking group in the church at Corinth had a lax attitude toward sexual matters and pagan sacrifices. Paul was disturbed about what he heard about the Corinthian Church, and he wrote a letter telling them so and instructing

them concerning Christian morals. Yet, even in this distressing situation, at the beginning of his letter, he writes, “I give thanks to God always for you because of the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus.”

The attitude of the Christian toward life and toward God is thankfulness. It is no accident that the principle act of worship in the Church throughout the ages is called the Eucharist, which means thanksgiving.

We find ourselves in a season of remembrance, as we are to give thanks in all circumstances. Our giving of thanks is not like looking through rose-colored glasses, where we pretend that everything is good. We are giving thanks to God in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, thanking God for life, for the means to sustain our lives, for the many blessings which enrich our lives; for our families, for friends, for the Church. Above all, we give thanks for our Lord Jesus Christ who has given us the gift of everlasting life.

Re-read Luke 17:11-19

- What is this healing about?
- What did these ten men ask Jesus to do?
- What is leprosy?
- What did the men have to do when they were within six feet of people?
- Being a leper was very lonely because they could no longer live with their families. What did Jesus say to them?
- Why did Jesus send them to the priest?
- Were the men healed?
- Who returned to give thanks?
- Why didn't the other 9 turn back to thank Jesus?
- Do we sometimes forget to thank people when they help us?
- Do you remember to thank God when He helps you?
- Why is it important to give thanks to God?
- Why don't we do it more often?
- For what things are you grateful?

Let us pray:

In the beginning you beamed light that shines in the darkest hour, Light that no darkness could overcome:

Pierce the soul of this nation with your light, And enlighten everyone with your divine wisdom.

Pierce the soul of this nation with your light,

And blind the demons of violence and hate.

Pierce the soul of this nation with your light,

That our chests draw in hope

And our hands grasp with strength

And our innards gird with all their might

And our hearts pump the lifeblood  
Of an unlikely, luminous new beginning being born. Amen.

### PRAYER CONCERNS ~ HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU TODAY?

- We pray for miraculous healing, courage and strength for Mr. Ralph Hensel as he recovers from surgery. Great Physician, may Your healing hand rest upon Mr. Ralph Hensel, may Your life-giving powers flow into every cell of his body and into the depths of his soul, cleansing, purifying, restoring him to wholeness and strength for service in Your Kingdom. In Jesus name we pray. Amen. Cards and notes of speedy recovery can be mailed to Mr. Ralph and Mrs. Bonnie Hensel, 629 Highland View Drive, West Bend, WI 53095
- Prayers of healing and support is requested for Mrs. Nancy Whitson. She is still hospitalized after experiencing a critical medical crisis and having hip surgery. Cards and notes of prayer and support can be mailed to: Mrs. Nancy Whitson, 922 Hickory Street, West Bend, WI 53095
- A Homegoing Service was held for Mr. William (Bill) Hornung on Saturday, 30 July 2022. We extend to Mrs. Ginger and the family our love, strength and support. Your cards and notes of condolences can be mailed to: Mrs. Ginger Hornung, W194N16744 Eagle Dr. Room 3, Jackson, WI 53037
- Our beloved Christian Sister, Ms. June Knowlton-Sengpiel, passed away Sunday, July 30, 2022 surrounded by her loving family. A Celebration of Life Service will be held Saturday, August 13, 2022, 3:00 p.m., at Fifth Avenue Methodist Church. The family will greet relatives and friends at the church on Saturday from 1:00 p.m. until 2:45 p.m.
- We grieve the passing of our beloved Wesleyan butterfly, Ms. Betsy Winquist who passed away on Saturday, 21 May 2022. Comfort and peace to her family and friends.
- Bro. Slade request prayer for his family and others that were affected by the torrential rains in St. Louis, MO. Lord in your mercy; hear our prayer.
- We extend our deep and heartfelt condolences to the family of Rev. Wesley “Wes” C. Falk who passed away on 11 June 2022. Cards of care and support may be sent to: Mrs. Bonnie Falk, 5458 E. Moraine Hills Dr., West Bend 53095.
- **Fifth Ave. United Methodist Church, we are in desperate and wanting need for you to step-up and serve on the Accountable Leadership Board (ALB). Your church is in grave and urgent need for fresh, creative and innovative leadership. All positions of the board are open. Please, please contact Pastor Clarissa (847.721.1826) to discern God’s call for you to serve your church. You may not think you have the gift, talent, and/or time to serve, however, “If you listen to the word, but do not put it into practice you are like people who look in a mirror and see themselves as they are. They take a good look at themselves and then go away and at once forget what they look like. But if you look closely into the perfect law that sets people free, and keep on paying attention to it but put it into practice—you will be blessed by God in what you do.” (James 1:23-25) Good is calling you; inviting you to step forward and serve God’s church and God’s people. Will you say. “Yes?” We need you!**
- “I found I had less and less to say, until finally, I became silent, and began to listen. I discovered in the silence, the voice of God.” Soren Kierkegaard. Base on many forms of church data, many churches will not exist in the next few years. FAUMC leadership has gone as far as to project that our church has only six to ten years of life left. As your devotedly committed and passionate Pastor and Spiritual Leader, I rebuke this death sentence. I have been eagerly attempting to energize the church (the people) and engage our members in a vital and relevant faith journey and discipleship. It all begins with serving (volunteering) God’s church and God’s people. Where are you being called to serve? How can you take the light of Christ into the dark and hurting world? Please join me as we lead revitalized ministries, programs, and outreach as we’re willing open

to looking inward in order to have an outward influence that makes a difference to our community and the world. Come, where are you going to serve?

- Bro. Bob Krell, prayers for strength and continued healing. Please mail cards and notes of prayer and encouragement to: Bro. Bob and Mrs. Jean Krell, 804 Lenora Drive, West Bend, WI 53090
- We extend passionate love and support to Mr. John Abuya on his recent diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. Card of love and support can be sent to: Mr. John Abuya, 328 East Washington Street, #1, Slinger, WI 53086.
- Many of our church family members and friends are experiencing health concerns. Please join me in praying for their healing and restoration: “loving God, I pray that you will comfort us in our suffering, lend skill to the hands of the healers, and bless the means used for to cure. Give each of us such confidence in the power of your grace, that even when we are afraid, I may put my whole trust in you; through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.”
- We continue to share our seed of faith to Ms. Lora Santiago, daughter of Mr. Peter and Ms. Katie Glaser, who was diagnosed with melanoma cancer. Ms. Lora is so appreciative of your continued prayers and support. Your seeds of faith through cards and notes can be mailed to: Mrs. Lora Santiago, C/O Mrs. Katie Glaser, N166 W21211 Glencoe Lane, Jackson, WI 53037.
- We send our prayers and support to Mrs. Sandy Wamser. She has returned to Wisconsin. Cards and notes of continued healing and restoration can be mailed to: Mrs. Sandy Wamser, 3742 Pleasant Valley Road, West Bend, WI 53095.
- We ask for your continued prayers of healing and restoration for Rev. Jean Bartlett. She will move to a nursing facility where she will start both radiation and chemotherapy on 21 March 2022. We’re also praying for Rev. Jon Bartlett for strength and courage. Cards and emails of comfort, healing and care can be sent to: Rev. Jean and Rev. Jon Bartlett, 813 Seymour Street, Waupun, WI 53963. Email address: [bitojon@gmail.com](mailto:bitojon@gmail.com)
- Mrs. Janice Liepert-Kempf, continued prayers for healing and strength as she continues to struggle with illness. You can send emails of prayers and support to: [alankempf33@gmail.com](mailto:alankempf33@gmail.com); or cards and notes to Mrs. Janice Liepert-Kempf, 414B. South Pleasantview Road, Plymouth, WI 53073; phone number: 920.838.1830.
- Ms. Linda Green, sister of Mrs. Debra Matthies, thank you for your continued prayers for strength and courage as her cancer has returned. Cards and notes can be mailed to: Ms. Linda Green, c/o Mrs. Debra Matthies, 1466 North 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, West Bend, WI 53090.
- Mr. Len McGinnis, Jr., continues to face medical concern. Your cards and notes of support and well wishes for Mr. Len and Mrs. Shelia McGinnis can be mailed to: 1230 Vogt Drive, West Bend, WI 53095
- Mr. Roger and Mrs. Nobi Sacia, are grateful for your prayers and cards of encouragement. Mr. Roger and Mrs. Nobi, 1626 Jefferson Street, Madison WI 53711
- Mr. Phil Heimerl, son-in-law of Mike & Fay Lewis. He was diagnosed with ALS and continues to request your prayers of healing.

Prayer: When evil darkens our world, give us light. When despair numbs our souls, give us hope. When we stumble and fall, lift us up. When doubts assail us, give us faith. When nothing seems sure, give us trust. When ideals fade, give us vision. When we lose our way, be our guide! That we may find serenity in Your presence, and purpose in doing Your will. Amen.

God’s anointing blessings upon you,

Pastor Clarissa & Bro. Martin