

Let us pray,

Lord, guide us to see that human wisdom will only get us so far.

Help us to follow your wisdom always.

Amen.

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Perspectives.

Everyone has a perspective.

It's the way that we view and see the world based on our knowledge and personal experiences in this life.

To us, our perspective, is how the world works.

Often we think that everyone thinks, feels, and goes through similar things like we do.

However, that is not always the case.

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Every human being has a unique experience in this life.

Some people have more similar experiences than others, but nonetheless they are still unique no matter how similar.

Its not bad to have a personal perspective, but our perspectives can get us into trouble.

They can make us believe that other people, if they would just act like me, think like me, be me, then the world would be a better place.

We often times say things like,

Well I went through that, why can't they.

It was just as hard for me, they just need to try harder.

Oh, I couldn't get that, its too hard for people.

Or, I don't like that, so no one must like it.

And so on and so on.

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Often times we confuse personal perspectives with objective truths.

This isn't to say that personal perspectives aren't valuable, they are!

Personal perspectives help to understand one another on how we see the world and how the world has treated us.

We get into trouble, however, when we impose our own personal perspectives onto other people.

Or we assume that other people's personal perspectives are less than ours or invalid.

We cannot take our own personal perspectives seriously, if we do not take other peoples perspectives seriously.

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In our own small way, what we are doing when we do that, is making the world revolve around us.

When we use our understanding of the world to judge other peoples understanding of the world, we create a superiority claim, that I think often times goes on subconsciously.

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There are some people out there who actively think they are better than other people, and often times they will tell you that.

But I truly believe that the vast majority of humans are just trying to be helpful and don't understand how some people struggle with things that came easy to other people.

Or vice versa.

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I also believe that at our core, all humans just want a good life for themselves and others, but when things get tough or uncomfortable, we tend to move away from the issues being a problem for us to solve together, and more of a pointing of fingers at certain groups of people and a desire for quick fixes. Jesus' crucifixion was one of the pointings of fingers and quick fixes that us humans have done.

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The religious elites thought that by getting rid of Jesus through execution, their problem would be solved.

But in the end, we know that it only made their problem worse. Because Jesus wasn't the problem, instead, it was a society that favored some people, and pushed down most people.

It was a society that glorified inequality that was the problem, it wasn't a singular man.

Jesus was just shining a light on it.

And so often we blame the messengers, instead of the root of the problems they are proclaiming.

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Jesus' sermon on the mount, I am sure made a lot of people in power upset.

No longer were the elites, the wealthy, the powerful, the ones who were blessed by the gods or by God.

Instead Jesus says;

Blessed are the poor, the mourning, the meek, the hungry, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness.

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If we were just taking from a human perspective, it can be easy to deduce that those who have things on earth are blessed by God and those that don't are being punished or are not blessed for some reason.

The human perspective can also create this idea that some lives are more important than other lives.

And these perspectives have been the traditional wisdom of much of human history.

But Jesus is trying to put an end to this type of wisdom.

Human wisdom and siloed human perspective has a tendency for creating division and hierarchy.

Godly wisdom and Godly perspective, creates bridges and builds relationships among humans and the divine.

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It seems foolish to fight the strong by being weak.

But Jesus shows us that strength, that power, comes not in our ability to dominate others or this creation.

True strength and power, comes in our ability to not use strength and power, especially when we desire to do so, so strongly.

Jesus wants a world where we stop trying to dominate each other, stop trying to one up each other, stop trying to take more from each other.

And to stop blaming the least of these, for the problems of the world.

Instead we are called to outdo ourselves in our generosity, our kindness, our mercy, and our love for one another.

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If we desire a world at peace, we must be the actors of peace. We must be willing to live our individual lives as embodiments of what true Godly wisdom looks like.

I understand that we live in a broken world, I understand the need to defend ourselves and protect people sometimes with force.

But when we do those things like that, they should be out of a sense of desperation, not from a sense of domination.

And we must understand that no form of violence is ever justified.

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Jesus teaches non-violence, so much so that he did not fight back at all.

Jesus died willingly, rather than fight with violence.

He even healed the ear of one of his captors when Peter cut it off.

Human wisdom says this is weakness, but Godly wisdom says this is strength.

Jesus understands that we live in a broken world, that sometimes we see no other way and there is always Grace for us.

But if we do desire peace and to follow Jesus, we are called to do everything in our power to maintain or create peace, above everything else.

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And Peace meaning justice and equity for all people.

Peace isn't about domination or complacency.

Jesus disrupted the “peace” by confronting the religious leaders and their hypocrisy.

So, True peace isn't about just not rocking the boat or not making a scene.

True peace is where all are given what they need and loving relationship is at the foundation of everything we do.

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The truth is, we do not live in a world, where loving relationship is at the foundation of everything that we do.

Because we still live in a world where human wisdom dominates.

After 2,000 years we still have not learned this lesson.

Thank goodness that we still have the good news of Jesus Christ.

Thank goodness, that you all are here, wanting to follow Christ and be co-bringers of peace with Jesus.

The world needs the life and teachings of Jesus and people who are dedicated to following this life and teaching.

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Jesus is a gift from heaven, his wisdom can bring heaven on earth.

His wisdom that says every life is important, every life matters, and that the purpose of our lives is relationship with God and God's creation.

We take this philosophy or theology as a given, but it is not.

We must continue to remind the world, that every life matters, that we are all children of God, and that no one is better or more important than any other human.

That is Godly wisdom.

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May we learn to see the world, not from our own perspective, but from God's perspective.

May we see that Jesus died for all of creation, not just a few.

May the Spirit give us strength to live for and with others, and bless us with the gift of peace.

Amen.