

# Heavenly Perspective: Sunday (Copy)

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Young Adults director: Thursday nights...

BE A BEREAN!

Acts 17:11 speaking of the Bereans says 'These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.'

PRAY!

For those of you that have been here for the past few weeks, you know we have been in the book of James... So.... that's fun! Is fun the right word? No, 'fun' isn't the right word... Maybe I should say 'necessary' or 'needed' or 'hard but good'... Just a few weeks ago, I was sitting right over here when pastor Josh first started going through the book and we quickly came to James 1:2 where it says: "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials," James 1:2 And this reminded me of some of the things that we have been looking at in the Young Adults group as we are studying through the book of Luke. You see, this here in James is a hard saying... It doesn't always make sense to us - even when we read it with the next verse: My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. James 1:2-3 It still doesn't necessarily equate in our minds... We are to count it as all joy when we go through these hard, stretching and even crushing times in our lives because what we get out of it is patience? Some of us may say: "I don't like that trade off..." "It's not worth it..." "I'm not really seeing the value..." And I get that... after all, there are a lot of hard sayings in the epistles... Sayings like: 1 Peter 1:6 "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials" Phil 1:29-30 "For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me." 2 Cor 12:10 "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong." Rom 8:18 "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." And there are many more... But not only these, there are a lot of hard sayings that don't really make sense to us that come out of Jesus' own mouth! In Luke Ch 6, we are given an account of Jesus teaching and going through some beatitudes... We are usually more familiar with the beatitudes that we read in Matthew 5. But here in Luke, we first read that out of a number of disciples that follow Him, Jesus picks out 12 to be his apostles... and it says: "Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, For yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, For you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, For you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets." Luke 20-23 'Blessed', 'Happy', 'Fortunate' are those who are what? Poor... Hungry... 'Blessed', 'Happy', 'Fortunate' are those who Weep... are Hated... are Excluded... are Reviled and Insulted and Denounced...? How does that make sense? Jesus doesn't stop there... He goes on: "But woe to you who are rich, For you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full, For you shall hunger. Woe to you who laugh now, For you shall mourn and weep. Woe to you when all men speak well of you, For so did their fathers to the false prophets." Luke 6:24-26 'Woe', 'Horror and Dread' to you who are what? Rich.... Full.... 'Woe', 'Horror and Dread' to you who Laugh... are spoken well of by all people...? How does this hold water in our minds? BUT WAIT! There's more! Jesus isn't done! He then moves from giving them information to giving them instructions: "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back." Luke 6:27-30 Remember, though others may have been listening... Jesus is talking straight to His disciples and if you follow Him today, you are one of His disciples. This information and instructions are for you and I. How does this compute? Well, this is what we are going to talk about today... The Perspective of Heaven. You see, we all have what is called a worldview: 'Worldview' refers to the way an individual perceives and interprets the world around them. It's a comprehensive framework of ideas and beliefs about reality, self, and others, shaping individual behavior and actions. The Bible talks about this... Hold onto the idea of 'Worldview' while we read this verse: Romans 12:1-2: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Here, I want to focus on the first part of the second verse: And do not be conformed to this world, but

## Illustration

Brass KeyPotato ChipVelcroSpaghettiTea BagSteel WoolCorn FlakeMarker TipKitchen  
SpongeOreo CookieCoffee Bean

Now, most of you were looking at these things and thinking 'I don't know what to do with that thing' 'I don't know if it is good or bad to put that thing in my mouth.' We didn't know because we didn't have the perspective we needed. If I zoomed out on those pictures, then you would have the right perspective and would know exactly what to do with each thing. What this shows is that it is very hard to know what to think about something that happens in our life unless we have the right perspective. We don't know what to do with a hard situation or testing or trial that comes our way if we don't have the right perspective. We don't know how we are to properly, Biblically handle a belligerent person, a strained relationship or a sour experience with someone in a God honoring and glorifying way if we don't have God's perspective. Without that, we don't even know if something is good for us or bad for us... And that right perspective comes from the right worldview. The right worldview comes from the Word of God! We can go the other way: the more of the Word you have, the more right your worldview will be. And the more right your worldview is, the more you will have the proper perspective... The more you have the proper perspective: The more you will know if something is good or bad. The more you will know how to think about something that comes your way. The more you will know what to do with something that happens. The more you will know how to handle someone who treats you poorly. The more you will know how to think about something - anything in your life. You see, God tells us straight in Isaiah 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts." Why would we want to rely on our own thoughts, our own understanding and our own perspective when His are so much better and higher? Not to steal any material from Josh... God willing, he will be taking us through this section soon... but in light of what we are talking about, look at what James 3:13-18 says: James 3:13-18 "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace." This could be a commentary on Jesus' words in Luke that we read earlier. You see, all throughout the Gospels we see Jesus working with His followers to implant in them a Heavenly understanding. Before the disciples became the Apostles... Before the disciples went out and did all sorts of miracles... Before they were used of God, they had to have their worldview corrected and even completely flipped. We constantly read where Jesus is saying: "You have heard it said, but I say to you..." "Verily, Verily" or "truly, truly" I say to you... We see Him clearly taking the understanding of the disciples regarding spiritual things - like the coming of the Messiah and His mission and totally altering it so it lines up with God's information and eternal plan. He wants to do that in each of our lives too! If we don't have the word of Jesus, we will have far less than half the story - if any of it at all. This is why God tells us often in the word to 'reckon' or 'consider' the truth He is speaking through an Apostle or Jesus Himself. Let's look at some of the verses that were brought up earlier: Blessed are you poor, For yours is the kingdom of God. Luke 6:20b But woe to you who are rich, For you have received your consolation. Luke 6:24 Without the Heavenly perspective, we would just be poor for no reason. But the Bible tells us that there is an eternity of joy in Jesus waiting for us after this life. We are told that the greatest things the world has to offer is like a dirty, filthy rags compared to the riches that God has waiting for us. If we were rich and caught up in the wealth and trappings of this world, we may miss the true, eternal wealth that Jesus has to offer. Do you recall the account of the rich man and Lazarus and their eternal respective ends? Blessed are you who hunger now, For you shall be filled. Luke 6:21a Woe to you who are full, For you shall hunger. Luke 6:25a You hunger now? You aren't content now? You have longings that aren't satisfied now? Good! This is very good! Because we were not made for the cheap, temporary, empty pleasures that the world has to offer. The very God of the universe wants to fill you to overflowing with so much love, peace and joy that we can't imagine it not only here and now, but in Eternity! In fact, we will be learning of His love for us forever! If we were satisfied now, we wouldn't seek after Him, and if we won't seek after Him, we won't know Him and will be eternally