



September 22-23, 2020

Series: Perspective

Message: God's Perspective of People

Teacher: Maura Ringley

The Main Thing: We have the opportunity, the privilege, and the responsibility to see people the way God sees people.

Scriptures: Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139:13; Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 Peter 2:12

Bible Background Notes:

Jeremiah 1:5

There are examples in Near Eastern literature of deities knowing and electing before birth. Here, God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet with no geographic limits.

Psalm 139:13

The psalmist here uses familiar phrases from the ancient world instead of introducing a new theological concept; the idea of a deity knowing an individual before birth. Poetic language conveys that God is involved in every detail of our lives, including the beginning and the end. *God is personally concerned about every human being even before birth.

Ephesians 2:10

Good works don't save a person, but flow from that person as a result of salvation. Good works flow from what God does in us, rather than from what we do. It is God's purpose for good works to flow from grace.

1 Peter 2:9,12

The church is the true Israel, heirs of God's promises and privileges. The verse quotes Exodus 19:6, implying that Christians share in God's covenant with Israel. Old Testament prophets taught that God had redeemed His people for His praise.

Source: The IVP Bible Background Commentary OT/NT; Serendipity Student Bible

SMALL GROUP TIME

Icebreaker:

Who have you encouraged this week? How did you do it?

Questions:

How do you see other people? From your perspective or God's?

What would have to change for you to see ALL people from God's perspective and not your own opinions about them?

What would this look like in everyday life?

How do people see YOU on Social Media?

Are you the same Christian on Instagram, TikTok, and SnapChat that you are at Journey? Why/why not?

How do you view OTHERS on social media? (As competition, or as people to love, encourage, and build up?)

Jeremiah 1:5 and Ephesians 2:10 talk about God's perfect design for every person. God loves everyone just as he designed them to be.

How does this change your perspective of others?

What about the things you can't stand about your sibling?

What about the things your parents do that make you angry?

What about the quirks you can't stand in your best friend?

What about that person that rubs you the wrong way every time they talk?

What about the person on social media who has completely opposite views from you? (political, values, etc)

Are you living in such a way that when people see you, they see God?

What has to change in your life for that to happen?

Are non-believers attracted to your joy and your good deeds?

Do you see non-believers as God sees them: people desperately in need of a Savior? Or do you see them as people who have their own beliefs and that's ok for them?

Why does this difference matter?

Why do we want to see others from God's perspective of unconditional love, forgiveness, and grace?

What is a small step you can take this week to see people in your life from God's perspective?

Group Prayer