How quick we are sometimes to mis-judge… It’s no wonder Jesus told us not to.

Matthew 6:22-23 “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, 23 but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness (evil), how great is the darkness!”

We only let in what we seek…

Thomas A` Kempis wrote: If you seek Jesus in everything, surely you will find Him and live in the light of His Word.

But if you seek yourself, self you will surely find, but to your own ruin.

Some Christians saw the news story about Cuomo and Elizabeth Warren and they were shocked…but should it?

What should probably shock us more is when Christians communicate anger & hatred toward people who do not have a relationship with Christ and are therefore can only focus on darkness, themselves, & what they believe will advance their political careers.

Folks I understand that these issues are an attack against God’s Word and that Christians should respond…

But the Christian response should be Christ-like… Overcoming evil with good… Sin and the Christians response to it, is the issue here.

Atheist/pre-Christians use abortion to argue against Christianity?

God must not exist…

If God is real and loving, why doesn’t He stop people from murdering innocent babies every single day?

That question usually gives Christians a severe case of “lockjaw”!

1 Peter 3:15 tells us that Christians are supposed to be prepared to give a proper response… In gentleness & love…

Our goal is to help see Jesus, because He can help them see their life and the world in a better way.

Seeing fewer problems and more possibilities.

When we look for the “good” that Jesus wants to bring thru what people see as negative, we’ll find good.

So where is Jesus while all of this abortion stuff is happening?

Hebrews 12:2 NKJV – “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising it’s shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Why is Jesus sitting?!! Why doesn’t He do something? He did, and when He finished His work (that we couldn’t do – carrying our sin to the cross)… He sat down at the right hand of His Father.

Romans 8:34 tells us that He there interceding on our behalf…

Ephesians 2:10

Jesus is petitioning His Father for the things that you and I need to accomplish the “Good work” that He has saved & adopted us for.

I mentioned to you a while back that our family’s clean-up day was on Saturday mornings...

This may come as a surprise, but not everyone in our family liked to do the tasks that were assigned to them…

But do you no what they liked even less? What I did after I finished my work…, (which was the hard work that they weren’t willing or able to do…)

I sat down…

Somehow they developed a misconception that when I sat down, they could too, even if they hadn’t done their work (or in some cases even started)…

Don’t get me wrong… When I sat down, (I interceded on their behalf)…

I actively offered them tools/helpful suggestions/guidance that would help them get their part done better, faster, and in a much more positive way, so they could join me in enjoying the completed project…

But because their misperception was blurring their vision, they weren’t able to see that I was trying to help them succeed, it caused them to view me and the situation negatively, which brought struggle/difficulty into their lives, as well as Dee & my life.

That’s what false belief and misperceptions produce…

Sometimes Dee & I had to go to Dairy Queen by ourselves, because we had done our work… We weren’t going to miss out on our reward!

Which, to a selfish child, makes good parents look even worse…

I find it ironic now, that they all have grown up, have children of their own and they have now “seen the light”! They view life differently.

They’ve asked for forgiveness for their behavior and now understand that I was trying to help & encourage them learn how to live properly, to make a positive difference… because that’s where God’s best blessings are found…

I never stopped loving them or trying to help them understand…

Maturity is a beautiful thing…

* My point is this… Jesus did His part for us. What we could not do.
* He purchased our redemption on the cross with His own blood.
* After He rose from the dead on the third day… He sat down.

Now He is at the right hand of His Father interceding on behalf of His children, blessing us with the power of the Holy Spirit & His Word…

Why? So that His followers have everything we need to continue maturing in our faith and being transformed into the likeness of Christ, focused on continuing His redemptive work, until He calls us home.

Then we get to sit down!

Why are so many babies being aborted? Perhaps some Christians have focused on “hating the sinner”, rather than loving them and “hating the sin”.

Why are so many dying every day without hearing the Gospel message?

Perhaps some Christians have sat down before their work was finished.

We know God isn’t instructing His children to do that…

Matthew 5-7 is Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount…

Jesus taught His followers about their part…

* “Be” of the “right attitude”
* Be Salt & Light (both are very beneficial in the work of reaching people who do not yet know Jesus.)
* Not Murdering (which includes the unborn)
* Not committing adultery (or desiring what God has not seen fit to give to you).
* Keep the promises you make (be cause God, who we represent, keep His promises)…
* Loving our enemies (even those who abort babies – to win them…)
* How to prayer & fast properly (for the people who are killing babies
* How & why we should never worry! (Worry is the absence of faith)
* Why we shouldn’t judge others. (It’s not our job)
* How & who’s going to Heaven.
* Live fruitful lives that lead others to faith in Jesus, etc…

Jesus did His part and sat down… Now He instructs His followers to get up and do their part…

That requires some Christians to change their view… to let more light in…

In Matthew 6:19-20 Jesus spoke about the evils of laying/heaping up/amassing for ourselves money & possessions on earth.

Philippians 3:20

Thomas A` Kempis wrote: “What we focus on this life proves who we love…”

Matthew 6:24

Loving God and the lost MORE than the things of this world proves that we love Christ and His Kingdom most.

1 John 4:4 – Jesus has made this victory possible over the people, places, and things that VI for our attention and keep us focused on our own comfort and the things that will not last.

Overcoming, and living the victorious Christian life happens when we view the things of this world as tools to be used to reach others with the “GREAT NEWS” of Christ.

The good view allows us to see people like Cuomo & Elizabeth Warren, and others who’s views oppose Christ, not as the enemy, but as opportunities to love, accept & forgive.

Jesus did His best work with sinners & tax collectors… Didn’t He? And their views on life clashed drastically with His own.

How can we improve our view?

Since we aren’t supposed to judge each other, Paul encourages people to judge themselves… 2 Corinthians 13:5

Matthew 6:21 – “For where your treasure is, there your heart/mind will also be.”

Whatever one chooses to deposit into their heart, is what they can’t get their mind off of…

When believers are baptized, it’s just like a wedding ceremony…

* We announce to the world that we have given our life to Jesus…
* We now belong to Him… We lean our life against His by faith…
* His ways begin to occupy our thoughts…
* His purpose begins to occupy our life…

Does that describe you today?

Is it time for you to get serious about a relationship with Jesus, where He is the Lord of your life?

Is He what you focus on?

Jesus did His part and sat down… The question is, will we do ours?