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| Matt 13:1-9 Rom 12: 1-2 | Seeing things God’s way | Pinelands – 9am - 27/07/2025 |

Iceberg Power Point…

 **“What we see… *and…* What we do not see”**

 We have all seen Icebergs… on top of the water

 What we do not often see… Is what is under the Water.

**We need to** **TRAIN** ourselves to see… ***MORE* THAN…**

 **…JUST…** what we see **NATURALLY**

what meets the eye

 we almost need to look for what is ***NOT*** there

**Remember the story** of ***David and Goliath…***

When **Goliath** came against the **Israelites,**

the soldiers all thought and saw what came **Naturally,**

 ***"He’s so big we can never kill him."***

**David** looked at the same Giant and thought,

***"He’s so big I can’t miss."***

It does not matter how we view the World…

 ***OR…*** What our outlook might be…

**GOD…** Challenges us to look at the World… **DIFFERENTLY**

 **Change the Way** we look at **the World**

Last time, if you remember… I challenged you to…

***Make a Change… Before a fatal landing.***

**MAKE A CHANGE…**

To **Grow Spiritually**

 To **BE** more of **WHO** God wants you to **BE**

 To **DO** more of **WHAT** God wants you to **DO**

Last week, **Rev Mike Crockett** challenged us to…

**CHAGE** **the way we love…** ***to LOVE differently…***

 Love beyond our Prejudices and Perceptions.

***SO…* For today…**

Here is a **CHANGE** we all need to make…

 **Change the Way** we look at **the World**

 ***AND*… Look for the things that God Sees.**

As **Paul** says… *(Romans 12)*

***We need to GROW the MIND of CHRIST in US.***

**What does that mean?…** IT MEANS…

 When we **think** - We think like **JESUS**

 When we **act** - We act like **JESUS**

 When we **react**  - We react like **JESUS**

 When we **serve**  - We serve like **JESUS**

 When we **work**  - We work like **JESUS**

 When we **Look** - We need to see with the

 ***EYES of Jesus***

 That is what it means to be…

 ***A FOLLOWER OF JESUS***

**SO…** Here is the ***CHANGE*** we need to make…

 **We need to Grow** **The MIND of CHRIST** in us.

**The Parable** we read from **Matthew…** the ***Parable of the Sower…***

Speaks of the seed falling in 3 different places…

 On the ***PATH*** (hard worn path)

 On the ***Rocky Ground*** among the Thorns

 On the ***Fertile Ground*** (Good Soil)

**Traditionally** the interpretation of this parable is…

 **The SEED** represents the WORD OF GOD…

 It is Preached / given / read… whatever…

 **AND** it Falls where it falls…

 The **Path, Rocky Ground or Good Soil…**

 Representing our LIVES / US.

***HOWEVER***, for this morning…

 I want to turn this **PARABLE** **on its Head…**

 ***Let us look at it DIFFERENTLY.***

**THE SEED…** Represents ***our Lives / Us***

**The GROUND…** Represents ***OUR FAITH and GOD’s WORD...***

 ***In*** *our lives*

 **We CHOOSE…** **where** we FALL

 The Quality and Quantity of

 God’s Word in our Lives

 Whether God’s Word… will grow in us

Whether God’s Challenge…

 will change us.

**For some of us…** God’s Word / **Our Faith** is like…

**The PATH…** Hard, *Difficult to get into,*

 ***Our Faith*** has **NO real** meaning in our lives

 TOO much other activity on the path

 Our Faith… *Not A Priority*

 Easy come Easy Go.

 **ROCKY Ground, surrounded with Thorns…**

 We *dabble in God’s Word,*

 We make a half-hearted effort…

 **BUT…** We get *distracted*

 We *lose focus*

 The things of the World…

 *Choke out and Smother…*

*God’s Word.*

 **GOOD Soil…** We ***IMMERSE*** *ourselves in God’s Word*

 We surround ourselves with the **Word.**

 God’s Word… **Becomes…**

 Our View Point

 ***Our Frame of Reference***

**That is what needs to CHANGE…**

 We need to **Choose** the ***GOOD SOIL***

 CHOOSE to… Immerse ourselves in God’s Word

 Surround ourselves with the Word

 Look at things God’s Way

 **SEE** things **GOD’s WAY**

 CHOOSE to… Make our Faith a Priority

 Make our Faith our Reference point

 for Living Life

***HOW DO WE FACILITATE THIS CHANGE?...***

**As Paul says…**

**We need to GROW the MIND of CHRIST in US.**

**We Need To Do whatever it takes to…**

 **Be aware of** Christ and His Word, ***Keep being*** Reminded

 **Be aware of** Seeing things God’s Way… ***Keep being*** Reminded

**Maybe that means…**

Doing something Physical to remind you of Something Spiritual…

 *Fasting…* (Expand)

 *Reading Scripture* (QTs, Bible Aids)

 *Pray regularly* (join a prayer group)

 *Join a Shared Life Group* (EWA or LINK)

 *Listen to Christian Music*

 *Wear a WWJD Bangle*

*Put notes in prominent places*

*Carry your* ***Prayer Cross*** *(wear a Cross)*

**Train yourself…** Practice the Disciplines…

 Exercise your Faith…

**Romans 12:1-2…**

***“So then, my friends, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer.***

***Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God---what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.”***

The **King James Translation** says…

 ***“be transformed by the renewing of your mind”***

(Our MINDs control everything – what we see, feel, taste,

 - what we do, how we act,

 - what we say and think)

We need to **Hear God’s Challenge** and…

 ***TRAIN…*** **Ourselves to…**

 **Our Minds to…**

**Look at the World…** ***DIFFERENTLY…***

***DIFFERENTLY…*** in the way ***GOD looks***… at the World…

 **SEE…** ***What God Sees.***

 **NOTICE…** ***What God Notices.***

**That is a CHANGE we can ALL MAKE.**

*Video – Blind beggar with sign*

**Matthew 13:1-9** **The Parable of the Sower**

That same day Jesus left the house and went to the lakeside, where he sat down to teach. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it, while the crowd stood on the shore. He used parables to tell them many things.

“Once there was a man who went out to sow grain. As he scattered the seed in the field, some of it fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some of it fell on rocky ground, where there was little soil. The seeds soon sprouted, because the soil wasn't deep. But when the sun came up, it burned the young plants; and because the roots had not grown deep enough, the plants soon dried up. Some of the seed fell among thorn bushes, which grew up and choked the plants. But some seeds fell in good soil, and the plants bore grain: some had one hundred grains, others sixty, and others thirty.”

And Jesus concluded, “Listen, then, if you have ears!”

**Romans 12:1-2** **Life in God's Service**

So then, my friends, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer. Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.