

## BRIEF PERSPECTIVE ON WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD

Spatial disorientation is a term familiar to pilots and underwater divers and describes the phenomenon where a person is unable to determine his position, motion and altitude relative to his surroundings [Encyclopedia Britanica]. The solution is to fly or dive based on instrumentation rather than depending on the person's intuitive sense.

Similarly, spiritual disorientation can affect us as we are constantly bombarded with or exposed to news, information, and entertainment that mostly contain values that are contrary to the Word of God. Just as the solution to spatial disorientation is to cultivate a habit of flying or diving by instrumentation, spiritual disorientation is remedied when we fly according to the divine compass.

People are not just news item or statistics but real people.

Things get a lot closer to home when we are reminded how we treat people is a reflection of how we love God. Yikes!

Our response to the news we read is also a barometer of our spirituality. Ouch! Was I indifferent or lacking compassion or do I see things through Jesus' eyes?

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### WARMING UP

1. Were there views or attitudes that you had that you now know are wrong? What changed?
2. Is it possible for a large group of people, including Christians, to be wrong? Could you cite some cases from history?

### INTO THE PASSAGES

#### **Read Luke 10:27-28, 36-37 - Loving others as ourselves**

3. What was the context that Jesus gave the second greatest commandment?
4. What is the implication for us the next time we read news involving a fellow human being?

#### **Read Matthew 12:33-37, 15:18-19 - That which defiles**

5. What did Jesus say were the things that defile a person?
6. What is the correlation between what is in the heart and what is spoken?

#### **Read James 1:19, Eph 4:15, 25 - Christian speech**

7. In terms of our speech, what are we to remove and what must be replaced?
8. Why is speech singled out as a measure of spirituality?

### MOVING FORWARD

Our response, particularly our speech, to what's happening in the world around us is an indicator of our spiritual health. If we respond with mercy and prayer, it is a wonderful picture of love and compassion that the Spirit of God has deposited in our heart.

We are to be thankful to God for speech as it allows us a glimpse into our heart.

If we speak well, be thankful for the continuing work of God in our lives. Even if we do not speak well, we have a gracious and compassionate God who loves us and wants to transform our lives.

What hope we have in Jesus.

### LIFE TOGETHER

- It is a wonderful picture in Ephesians 4. When the different ones of us gifted with different gifts speak the truth in love (meaning build one another up with the truth of the Word of God), Jesus builds His church onto maturity.
- What a glorious thought.
- Determine each time we meet together either on Sunday or during small group time, to speak words that will build one another up.

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These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Most of them are my own thoughts, so take that with a grain of salt. Let the Word of God lead you to truth, not these notes.

### INTO THE PASSAGES

#### Read Luke 10:27-28, 36-37 - Loving others as ourselves

3. What was the context that Jesus gave the second greatest commandment?

**Jesus gave the greatest and second greatest commandment when asked how can one inherit eternal life. Loving others is loving God made visible - that's the implication of that verse.**

4. What is the implication for us the next time we read news involving a fellow human being?

**The Golden Rule. We treat others as how we want others to treat us, even if the people are news item and in a geographically distant land.**

#### Read Matthew 12:33-37, 15:18-19 - That which defiles

5. What did Jesus say were the things that defile a person?

**Both the action and the intents are sins. And sin defiles a person.**

6. What is the correlation between what is in the heart and what is spoken?

**Thought precedes action. The person who has been justified is given a heart of flesh. Practically, by obeying God's Word, studying and meditation, a person's thought and mind is transformed. Psalm 119:9-16, Rom 12:1-2.**

#### Read James 1:19, Eph 4:15, 25 - Christian speech

7. In terms of our speech, what are we to remove and what must be replaced?

**We are to remove falsehood in our speech. Falsehood here is everything that is not edifying and may be used to tear one another down. Instead we are to speak the truth in love. In context, the people who have been gifted by God (i.e. prophets, teachers, etc..) are to use the truth of God in a loving manner that will build the people of God (the church) up. So, the preacher must preach truthfully in context and with the wisdom that the Holy Spirit gives. Likewise, the writer of study notes (yours truly) must help people understand the truth in their proper context.**

8. Why is speech singled out as a measure of spirituality?

**Speech (what is heard) reveals the state of our heart (that which is unseen). We can only bear one type of fruit (James 3:9-12) so if our speech is not what it is supposed to be (building another person up in his faith), we must allow the Holy Spirit to examine our lives.**