

How Do You See the World?

Matt 9:35-38

Jay gave me an article to read about how America is changing right before our eyes. The author indicates that this a deliberate molding by a group that has a worldview of what they believe is so much better than Judeo/Christian ethics. That article got me to thinking, but I am going to take a slightly different track.

I am very light sensitive so sunglasses are an important part of my life. I bought a pair of sunglasses the other day. Really nice ones. They were the latest in a progression of sunglasses to protect my eyes. Bright sunny days are hard for me without sunglasses. When I was young, I got the cheaper, coolest looking pair of sunglasses I could find at the local store. They did the job of cutting down the brightness, but didn't really help my eyes. It was more of a fashion statement. I graduated to polarized glasses when I found they were better and I could see details better in the water for fishing. My doctor suggested I get wrap around glasses to block the light out and keep me from squinting so I started buying polarized sports glasses. They did the job, and I was satisfied with them for a long time. Then, I tried the expensive pair. Details were sharper, colors were more natural, the build was definitely better. What I needed was something that protected my eyes the best, fashion was a secondary priority. Helene informed me I just got my birthday present several months early.

Why am I telling you all this? Because those glasses shaped how I saw the world. Cheap sunglasses were better than none, but they didn't really fix the problem for me, they just looked cool. Proper sunglasses were definitely better, but it wasn't until I got the RIGHT sunglasses that did the job better than all the cheaper imitations that I understood why people spend a lot of money on good sunglasses.

How do you view the world? What filters do you use to see what is going on around you in a spiritual nature? Do you embrace the world and all its sin or do you look at the world through the filter of God's worldview? I want to look at some of those filters this morning.

PRAYER

I. What Is a Worldview?

A. What's your world view?

1. A worldview is simply the set of filters you use to look at everything around you.
2. It shaped by your upbringing, belief system, peer group and many other things.
3. It's interesting to talk to people of differing opinions on life.
4. I am amazed at how we can look at the same circumstances and see very different realities.
5. I have a cousin that I love dearly. She is a faithful Christian, attends church regularly, and her dad preached most of her life for a small church in Wisconsin. My mom and her mom are sisters so you would think we would think alike, right? Nope, she has a very different worldview than I do when it comes to politics. When we talk politics and how it affects the world around us, we each go to

very different facts to back up our points of view. I go to the correct ones and she doesn't!

6. Who is right? Well, the reality is that both of us can be right simply depending on our political understanding.
7. Our world view shapes how we see everything around us.
8. It creates our perception of reality.

B. Spiritual world views

1. So, let's take this thinking into the spiritual realm.
2. How do we see the world around us in spiritual matters?
3. I think we can break our spiritual worldviews into some broad categories, just like sunglasses.

II. The World's Worldview

A. The world at its worse

1. The world is like what we see without sunglasses.
2. It's bright, easy to see, and eventually ruins your eyes.
3. Cataracts, Macular Degeneration and other eye issues are usually the result of too much unfiltered sunlight over our lifetimes.
4. Romans 1:18–22 (ESV) — 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking,

and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

5. American Christians have made the mistake in recent years of believing our culture is pretty much Christian.
6. It might have been true at one point in time, but no longer.
7. Just think of the entertainment industry and what it has done to how we think as a people.
8. You went from married couples sleeping in 2 twin beds because we didn't want to give off any wrong vibes about actors who aren't

really married to Madonna and Britney Spears kissing, Miley Cyrus Twerking, and shows dedicated to completely immoral lifestyle.

9. And as a society we look at this stuff as just normal life. No big deal.
10. In just the last few years our culture as completely been reshaped by the entertainment industry.
11. Slowly, but surely they are chipping away at our bounds of decency.
12. In recent study of music being played on the radio, 92% of Billboard's Weekly Top 10 songs during last year were about sex.
13. There is no longer that safe family hour on TV. It has been replaced by a very in your face set of sitcoms that have influenced a generation of people and their views of right and wrong.
14. You can't even assume that cartoons are safe anymore!
15. Our societal values have completely changed in just 2 generations.
16. We went from sin being taboo to Christian values being taboo.
17. Here's the scary part, too many Christians don't see the fact that our pop culture is set against Christianity and we just keep bringing it into our lives and letting it influence us.

B. The Obvious

1. But, as much as I don't like where entertainment is heading, as much as I dislike what our society has become, why would anyone be surprised or shocked that the world is being the world?
2. That's kind of like expecting Satan to go church on Sundays.
3. We spend so much energy lamenting the obvious and so little energy trying to show them a better way.
4. We need to realize we are going to have to protect our spiritual eyes.

III. Fashionable Worldview

A. Look Good church

1. There is a phenomenon in church circles today called "cool church".

2. They are about being hip and cool to attract people to their congregations.
3. A lot of churches however are different than cool church; they are simply look good church.
4. They say and do just enough to earn the general title “Christian” but that is about as far as you can go with it spiritually.
5. They are all about fitting in with the world around them.
6. Their theology changes at the whimsy of what is acceptable to the most people at the given moment.
7. They look at the world and don’t see a world that is lost and dying.
8. They don’t have a heart that weeps like Jeremiah and Jesus when they looked at Jerusalem.
9. They want to be the world with as little restriction as possible.
10. They want to be acceptable to the very people that crucified Christ.
11. Their view of the world is “we’re all good. We just each seek our own way to God in whatever form you choose to worship him or her”

B. Missing the point

1. They are like what Paul warns Timothy about in 2 Tim 3
2. 2 Timothy 3:1–7 (ESV) — 1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. 6 For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women,

burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, 7 always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.

3. They have the appearance of Godliness, but deny its power.
4. They have some forms of religion that look and feel Christian, but will bend almost anything to get people in the door of their buildings.
5. They don't have a heart for the truth no matter the consequences.
6. They are the world dressed up like Christians.
7. They are like the cheap fashionable sunglasses.

C. Personal

1. Okay, I am about to step on some toes.
2. It's easy to attack a group and see what they are doing wrong.
3. All the while, we never make the application to our own lives.
4. Too many Christians want just enough Christianity to not be the world, but they want to look, act and sound like the world.
5. They don't want to change their lives too much.
6. They don't want to give up the sins that please them.
7. They only have the appearance of Godliness
8. Would this describe you?

IV. Close, but not Quite Worldview

A. Evil all around

1. It's interesting how different Christians see the same world as others.
2. While some want to be just like the world with just enough Jesus to make them feel good, others see Satan under every rock.
3. These Christians get the idea that the world is lost.
4. They know we need to confront the fact that the culture is seeping into our spiritual live rather than the other way around.

5. I think they want to do what is right, but they are so caught up in manifestations of being right, they miss what Christianity is at its

core and see the world as only a dark, terrible place to be avoided at all costs.

B. Good Christians

1. If we are going to be honest, I think most Christians fall into this category.
2. These Christians hide behind the safety of the church walls, never venturing out into the wickedness that surrounds them.
3. They lament the sinfulness of man and yet never share with people how God can offer them a better way of life.
4. They cherish the fellowship of other Christians
5. They are good Christians, they love people, they love God, they do most things right.
6. they are like the polarized Glasses that allow us to see the world more as it is really like.
7. they are heading in the right direction, but just aren't quite at that final level that God calls us to.

C.

V. The Right View

A. Only one view matters

1. As good as a mostly good world view is, there is only one view that matters, God's.
2. Think of looking at the world like looking through that great pair of sunglasses.
3. You see the world in better detail and the way it was meant to be seen; through the filter of God's view.

B. God's World view

1. There is a passage in Matthew that is so powerfully convicting to me.
2. It's one of those highlight passage I mention from time to time.
3. Matthew 9:35–38 (ESV) — 35 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming

the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

4. Look at how much is said in this passage about how we need to look at the world.
 - a) Jesus SAW the crowds; They were harassed and helpless
 - b) He had compassion on them
 - c) He gave a mission to his disciples
5. Sometimes I don't think we see the world the way we should as Christians.
6. We see them like the ancient world saw Lepers. Someone scary and to be avoided.
7. Jesus touched those that everyone else fled from.
8. He had compassion on them.
9. But he did something besides feeling pity for them.
10. He proclaimed the gospel and took care of their physical needs as well.
11. When we have the correct world view, when we look at the world in the way we need to, we will see the details.
 - a) We will see the pain and suffering.
 - b) We will see the lost and dying.
 - c) We will see those who need the gospel so badly
12. But it's not enough to see. We need to do.
13. We need to proclaim the gospel and heal.
14. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.
15. Will you see the world as Jesus does? ... And then DO something about it?