

August 9, 2015

Insight...

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”
1 Samuel 16:7

- **The Secret to Preaching a Good Sermon** – In seminary pastor Dave was struggling to get high marks from his homiletics professor. “Professor,” Dave asked, “I sincerely desire to be a good preacher. What can I do to garner your respect and eventually the gratitude of the church that will call me to minister to their hearts?” The Professor thought for a moment and replied, “Dave, I think that for you, the secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.

- **It’s called “spin.”** Recently a Gallop Poll reported that:
 - 29% of Americans believe abortion should “be legal under any circumstances.”
 - 51% said abortion should be legal only under certain circumstances.
 - 19% said abortion should be illegal in all circumstances.Here’s how CNN reporter Alison Camerota summarized these statistics, “That’s 80 percent of respondents who believe abortion should be kept legal.” Which sounds very different from what also could have been said of those same numbers. “That’s 70 percent of Americans who believe there should be limits on abortion.”

- **Bummed Out By News?** The late Chuck Colson implores us to remember two things:
 1. News outlets have a choice of what they broadcast and print. What you are unlikely to receive from them are the less marketable stories that would lift your spirit. We don’t see, for example, stories about how many Chinese citizens came to faith in Christ last week. We don’t hear accounts of how many children were fed and clothed in Uganda by Christian missionaries. Good things are happening every day. And God continues to turn what was intended for evil into good as well.
 2. We, who have salvation through Christ, have in Him a source of great joy...our inheritance (our salvation) secure and waiting for us in heaven. It intrigued Colson to learn that Americans—who have one of the highest standards of living in the world—are among the unhappiest people on earth; we down tranquilizers by the shovelful. Yet Nigerians, who have a low standard of living, are among the happiest people on the planet. The difference – a strength of faith forged in the fires of difficult living.

➤ **How much do we know about the continent of Asia.**

- ...Asia is the world's largest continent. Africa is 2nd and would only cover about 2/3rd of Asia.
- ...Asia's population? 4/1 billion. 60% of the world's total, making it also the densest with 87 people per sq. kilometer. Europe is 2nd at 72.5.
- ...Asia is home to the world's oldest known civilizations (including the garden of Eden).
- ...7 of the world's 10 largest cities, by population, are found in Asia: Shanghai, Beijing, Istanbul, Karachi, Mumbai, Guangzhou and Delhi
- ...2 Asian countries are listed as being 0% Christian: Maldives and Saudi Arabia.
- ...9 of 10 of the world's tallest buildings are in Asia.

- **Trivia Question:** The largest Shopping Mall in the world is the New South China Mall boasting a total leasable area of 659,612 square kilometers. (The Mall of America in Bloomington, MN is "just" 258,200 square kilometers). Why is the New S. China Mall called, "The Dead Mall?"

For Prayer...

- ...We mourn with the Derse family after the passing of Dan's father. Services in Lake Mills will be scheduled for later in the week.
- ...Dr. Eric Newgent (former chairman of our Missions Committee) is currently battling prostate cancer. The family appreciates our prayers for healing and the family's ability to live out God's perfect will. Eric is also Marianne Brinker's dad.
- ...Karson Leatherberry (6) did well this week and is home after having major surgery to have his pacemaker replaced (his 3rd) and repositioned. We give thanks but believe continued prayer for this family is a good thing.
- ...Brother Don Wachsmuth is currently hospitalized at the VA in Madison. Drs. are working to address several serious health problems including congestive heart failure. Brother Don is a homeless Vet that is a good friend of Walnut Hill's church family and a regular "Monday Nighter."
- ...Suzanne: a return to pure faith.
- ...Rachel – my son and I as we know Christ and begin to understand his love.
- ...Sale of Homes: Reidle, Gradall, Stocks, Muehlfelts,
- ...Couples who are fighting serious physical illness together:

Jeff & Laurie Wavrunek	Christy (Mike) Moura	Sue (John) Fletcher
Cheryl (Deane) Fischer	Renee (Dick) Holley	Ken & Judy Boll
Tom (Barb) Lehman		
- ...Our Expectant Mothers:

Jen (Cody) Sweet	Britta (Jonah) Moline	Coty (Steve) Bare
Brittany (Andy) Gradall	Diana (Steven) Ulrich	Kristin (Shawn) Hermson
Elizabeth (Brent) Parker	Angela (Ryan) Larson	Rebekah (Adam) Nofsinger
Lindsey (Jeremy) Muscanero	Johanna (Joshua) Wilcosz	Jill (Dale) Lempa
Lindsay (Evo) Ureno		

Trivia Answer: So named because 99% of the space for shops is empty...used mostly by homeless people and those who wish to take walks indoors.

The Cost has already been considered...
"We are not necessarily doubting that God will do the best for us; we are wondering how painful the best will turn out to be."
C.S. Lewis