



Grow. Pray. Serve.

March 12, 2017

Assumptions

1. Dictionaries define an assumption as a “thing that is accepted as true or certain to happen, without proof.” Some are fair and healthy, others quite the opposite.
2. Go about each day making choices, experiencing feelings, and acting upon the assumptions we carry around. And there are consequences that stem from this reality, both good and bad.
3. Scriptural stories about assumptions.
 - a. Genesis 3. Adam and Eve. Assumed the serpent was correct. Genesis 6. The Flood. Assumed any and everything goes without consequences. Exodus 17. Assumed God did not care or was disinterested. Book of Esther. Esther assumed bad things would happen if she did what she needed to do. Judges 6. Gideon assumed he was incapable and not qualified enough to do something challenging. 1 Samuel 16. Samuel assumed you “can judge a book by its cover”. Gospels. Pharisees had assumptions that made it impossible for them to see God doing something new and out of the box with Jesus. Luke 2. Mary and Joseph assumed Jesus was on the road with them.
4. Some assumptions we might make about God.
 - a. If I do good things, God will approve of me. If we have enough faith, God will give us what we ask for. When we pray in the right way, we will be prosperous and life will be good. Jesus did not really mean some of the things he said. Being a Christian means life is easy street. Christians should have it all together. If Jesus were to walk into this room right now, I’d recognize who he was unlike those Pharisees.
5. Henry Cloud: “12 Christian Beliefs That Can Drive You Crazy.”
6. Correct assumptions about God.
 - a. God loves us no matter what. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. We are forgiven. God wants us to live as a response to his love, not in order to earn it. The whole point of life is to love God and love people. We are imperfect, flawed and broken, and that is the case for every human being. Repentance. Every day is a new beginning. We can count on eternal life because of Jesus.
7. My top 5 assumptions are...
Are they valid? Reflective of Jesus? Consequences of each?

Today's Scripture Reading

Luke 2:41-52 (New Living Translation)

41 Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. 42 When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as usual. 43 After the celebration was over, they started home to Nazareth, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't miss him at first, 44 because they assumed he was among the other travelers. But when he didn't show up that evening, they started looking for him among their relatives and friends.

45 When they couldn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem to search for him there. 46 Three days later they finally discovered him in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions. 47 All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

48 His parents didn't know what to think. "Son," his mother said to him, "why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere."

49 "But why did you need to search?" he asked. "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 But they didn't understand what he meant.

51 Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. And his mother stored all these things in her heart.

52 Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.



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