

What World Are You Living In?

Series: Following Jesus: Naturally Supernatural

Matthew 13:10-13 NLT (0916)

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Mother's Day, May 10, 2009

Matthew 13:10-13 NLT ¹⁰His disciples came and asked him, "Why do you always tell stories when you talk to the people?" ¹¹Then he explained to them, "*You have been permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others have not.* ¹²To those who are open to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But to those who are not listening, even what they have will be taken away from them. ¹³That is why I tell these stories, because people see what I do, but they don't really see. They hear what I say, but they don't really hear, and they don't understand."

I. We don't evaluate "reality" from a neutral perspective

a. Conditioning

b. Assumptions

Nathan/Wilson *It is important to understand that few of us had mothers who sat us down and said, "Now, honey, this is the paradigm (set of assumptions or worldview) through which we, here in this household, look at material things, relationships, and [the underlying] connections between events."*

II. Our assumptions profoundly impact what we see

a. Two rules governing our assumptions

John 9 NLT ²"Teacher," his disciples asked him, "why was this man born blind? Was it a result of his own sins or those of his parents?"

¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man Jesus is not from God, for he is working on the Sabbath."

¹⁸The Jewish leaders wouldn't believe he had been blind, so they called in his parents.

²²the Jewish leaders... announced that anyone saying Jesus was the Messiah would be expelled from the synagogue.

²⁴we know Jesus is a sinner.

²⁹We know God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don't know anything about him.

⁴⁰The Pharisees who were standing there heard him and asked, "Are you saying we are blind?" ⁴¹"If you were blind, you wouldn't be guilty," Jesus replied. "*But you remain guilty because you claim you can see.*"

²⁵"I don't know whether he is a sinner," the man replied. "But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!" ...³³If this man were not from God, he couldn't do it."

b. Four typical assumptions of the conservative evangelical world

Don Williams *In my “enlightenment” theological education, I was trained to control everything... I was given exegetical tools with which to manage the Bible, theological tools with which to manage the faith, homiletical tools with which to manage my sermons, psychological and sociological tools with which to manage people and business tools with which to manage the church. Today’s seminary curriculum is far advanced in the application of the scientific method to the professional clergy.*

c. The power of seeing the world as Jesus sees it

Matthew 13:12 NLT *¹²To those who are open to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But to those who are not listening, even what they have will be taken away from them.*

III. Learning to affirm both the natural and the supernatural

a. The tendency to miss the best

Francis Schaeffer *Many Christians live as if God had created a two-story universe. The upper story is the realm of the supernatural, including God, angels, and demons. The lower story is the realm of the natural, including people, matter and energy. But the Bible makes no such distinction. A biblical worldview is far more holistic and unified than that.*

b. Steps to deliberately embracing a more biblical worldview

Matthew 13:12 NLT *¹²To those who are open to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But to those who are not listening, even what they have will be taken away from them.*