




2,000 Lbs.



“Is it safe  
to let go?”

Big Picture

vs.

Small Picture

# Big vs. Small Picture

## 1. Perspective

- Your point of view, way of looking at things, frame of reference
- Related to your worldview
- For Example:
  - John 9

# What Is My Perspective?

- See things from an earthly perspective
  - Well-being, health, comfort, safety, material blessings, being *fulfilled*, *pleasant* experiences, prestige
- For Example:
  - Esau: Gen. 25:27-34; Heb. 12:14-17
  - Pharisees: Matt. 16:1-4

# What Is My Perspective?

- See things from a spiritual perspective
  - God's glory, God's plan, holiness, character, maturity, discipleship
- For Example:
  - Joseph: Gen. 45:1-7; 50:15-21
  - Apostle Paul: Phil. 1:18-21; 3:2-21

# Big vs. Small Picture

## 2. Expectations

- Belief about what will or should happen, or how things will or should be
- **For Example:**
  - Peter: Matt. 16:21-23
  - The 5,000: John 6:26-27

# Big vs. Small Picture

## 2. Expectations

- We bring our expectations *everywhere!*
- Conscious or unaware
  - Often become aware of them when they are not met (or exceeded)

**WHAT I  
EXPECT**

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**HOW DO I  
RESPOND?**

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**REALITY -  
WHAT I GET**

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# What Do My Responses Reveal?

- My perspective and/or expectations
- For Example:
  - Job: Job 1:13-22
  - Balaam: Num. 22:22-35
  - Saul: 1 Sam. 18:6-9; 20:33
  - David : 1 Sam. 26:9-10 (exceed)

# What Do My Responses Reveal?

- My true focus

- Am I trying to *save face*?
- Any resentment / grudge?
- Any envy or jealousy?
- Any gossip or slander?
- Any grumbling?



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# What Do My Responses Reveal?

- **My true focus**

- Am I willing to confess?
- Am I trying to help?
- Am I trying to serve?
- Encourage or exhort?
- Do I count it all joy?



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# What Do My Responses Reveal?

- My heart

- Matt. 12:33-37

- Matt. 15:15-20

- James 4:1-4

# What Do My Responses Reveal?

## • Small Picture

- Deflect
- Complain
- Sulk
- Pout
- Whine

## • Big Picture

- Reflect
- Inquiry
- Seek
- Praise
- Worship

# Checking My Responses

## • From the Flesh?

- Gossip
- Grumbling
- Backbiting
- Malice
- Division

## • Like Christ?

- Grace
- Patience
- Encouragement
- Gentleness
- Unity / Peace

# Motives Check: *Christianized Sin?*

- “We need to pray for \_\_\_\_\_ ...”
- “Please pray for me...”
- “This is my cross to bear”
- “We’ll just leave it in the Lord’s hands”

# Yeah, but...

- “What if someone sins against me?”
  - Injustice, unkind words, violence
  - 1 Pet. 2:18-25
- “You don’t understand *my* situation!”
  - 1 Cor. 10:13; Heb. 2:14-18



# So, What Do We Do?

- Confess and Repent

- 1 John 1:5-10

- Renew your mind: put off the old man and put on the new man

- Eph. 4:22-24; 31-32

# Evaluating Expectations

- Are my expectations biblical?
- Are my expectations realistic?
- Are they in line with what God is doing?
  - For me?
  - For others?
- Am I seeing the BIG picture?