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OPINION, OPINIONS

When Abraham's oldest servant asked Laban's household how they were going to respond to his request to take Rebekah to Isaac, the people who gave him an answer were Rebekah's brother and father. Rebekah wasn't asked her **opinion** (although she was asked the next day.)

- **Genesis 24:49-51:** "And now if ye will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me: and if not, tell me; that I may turn to the right hand, or to the left. Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, The thing proceedeth from the Lord: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good. Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the LORD hath spoken."

When Abraham's oldest servant insisted that he wanted to leave that day to return to Abraham with Rebekah, her mother and brother said they would call Rebekah and ask for her **opinion**.

- **Genesis 24:54-57:** "And they did eat and drink, he and the men that were with him, and tarried all night; and they rose up in the morning, and he said, Send me away unto my master. And her brother and her mother said, Let the damsel abide with us a few days, at the least ten; after that she shall go. And he said unto them, Hinder me not, seeing the Lord hath prospered my way; send me away that I may go to my master. And they said, We will call the damsel, and enquire at her mouth."

Esau cared about his father's **opinion**.

- **Genesis 28:8-9:** "And Esau seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father; Then went Esau unto Ishmael, and took unto the wives which he had Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife."

Leah kept hoping that giving birth to sons would change Jacob's **opinion** of her. (It doesn't seem like that happened.)

- **Genesis 29:31-34:** "And when the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren. And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said, Surely the Lord hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me. And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Because the Lord hath heard I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son also: and she called his name Simeon. And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his name called Levi."

Before Elihu told Job and his three friends his **opinion**, he first said they lacked wisdom and understanding (which was a bold move).

- **Job 32:9:** "Great men are not always wise: neither do the aged understand judgment."

Elihu told Job and his three friends that he was going to tell them his **opinion**.

- **Job 32:10:** "Therefore I said, Hearken to me; I also will

shew mine opinion."

Elihu said that when he saw that Job's three friends had nothing more to say and were unable to answer Job's questions, that's when he decided to share his **opinion**.

- **Job 32:16-17:** "When I had waited, (for they spake not, but stood still, and answered no more;) I said, I will answer also my part, I also will shew mine opinion."

People's **opinions** of someone else may reflect their public image and not the reality of who they actually are. (This means their opinion may be worthless since it's not based on the truth.)

- **Proverbs 12:9:** "He that is despised, and hath a servant, is better than he that honoureth himself, and lacketh bread."

When the three Jews refused to worship the idol, Nebuchadnezzar's **opinion** of them changed and he became their enemy.

- **Daniel 3:18-19:** "But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated."

Because the three Jews refused to worship the idol, and God

then saved them from the fiery furnace, Nebuchadnezzar's **opinion** of their God changed.

- **Daniel 3:29:** "Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort."

The fact that Daniel was without fault didn't change the **opinion** of his coworkers or make them reconsider their plan. They didn't care that he was wholly innocent.

- **Daniel 6:4-5:** "Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God."

There were times when popular **opinion** prevented the chief priests and scribes from doing the wicked things they wanted to do (or saying the wicked things they wanted to say).

- **Luke 20:19:** "And the chief priests and the scribes the same hour sought to lay hands on him; and they feared the people: for they perceived that he had spoken this parable against them."

Paul believed that since John Mark didn't remain with them on their last missionary journey, he shouldn't go on the next

one. In Paul's **opinion** that disqualified him.

- **Acts 15:37-38:** "And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work."

We need to understand that the judgment which matters is the judgment of God, not the judgment of others. Even our own **opinion** is of little value.

- **1 Corinthians 4:3:** "But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self."

Those who are spiritual must acknowledge that the things Paul wrote in his epistles to the churches are commandments from the Lord. They're not Paul's **opinions**.

- **1 Corinthians 14:37:** "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord."

After Paul was saved, he didn't consult with other people. (In other words, he didn't seek the **opinions** or counsel of anyone else.)

- **Galatians 1:16-17:** "To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus."

It's possible that our **opinion** of ourselves is wrong. We may not be as great as we think we are.

- **Galatians 6:3:** "For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself."

PERSPECTIVE

When the psalmist prayed, he did so from a humble **perspective**.

- **Psalm 119:17:** "Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word."

If a demon is cast out of a person, but that person is never saved and indwelt with the Holy Spirit, then that person's body will be empty from the demon's **perspective**.

- **Matthew 12:43-44:** "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished."

From the **perspective** of God, *everyone* is alive.

- **Luke 20:38:** "For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him."

From a spiritual **perspective**, Jesus came at harvest time.

- **John 4:35:** "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

Paul viewed his persecution and his suffering from a **perspective** of how it impacted the spread of the gospel. That

was his focus.

- **2 Corinthians 4:9-11:** "Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh."

The world will take glory in terrible things. However, we must reject their values and instead see things from God's **perspective**.

- **Philippians 3:18-19:** "(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)"

God said that "it is done". (From God's **perspective**, everything in the book of Revelation is certain. None of it is in doubt.)

- **Revelation 21:6:** "And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely."