

# DONES & NONES

## SEEING THE WORLD GOD'S WAY



The following document is a rough copy of Pastor Drost's sermon  
notes from July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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- Most of us have had the wonderful experience of going to an optometrist to get our eyes tested to detect vision problems.
  - They put this apparatus in front of you called a PHOROPTER or a REFRACTOR.
  - Is the first one better or the second one... 1 or 2?
- **This morning I want us to take a spiritual eye test!**  
We are going to talk about SEEING THE WORLD GOD’S WAY.
- We have been talking about the DONES & NONES.
  - DONES** These are the people who have left the organized “church” or organized religion. They’re done with “going to church”.  
They are the DECHURCHED.
  - NONES** People who claim to have no religion. The IRRELIGIOUS  
They are totally disconnected with any religion. They don’t pray and they have no particular interest in spiritual things.  
God, Jesus, prayer, church, don’t form a part of their lives.

- **The question today is: How does Jesus see these Dones & Nones?**  
**AND... Do we see them like He sees them?**

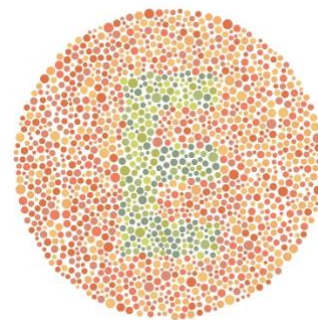


Illustration: I have what generally is referred to as Colour blindness...

- red/green deficient (I don’t see these colours as good)
- 1 in 12 men in North America (will not admit it)
- COLOUR TEST (can you see the letter in the circle?)
- **Jesus called the religious people of his time** (the pharisees) **“blind leaders”**. They could not see what he saw!  
They could not see people the way he saw them!

“When Jesus saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep without a shepherd.” Matthew 9:36

When Jesus saw people, he saw them different than how the Pharisees saw them. They saw them as “sinners” and “disobedient” to their rules and regulations. Jesus saw them as weary, scattered, and dejected; sheep without a shepherd!

**Remember this!** Jesus saw them as sheep without a shepherd!

- In the Gospel of Luke 15 we find a group of people gathered around people. It says they were drawn to Him!

The tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes (these are the religious people) complained, saying, “This Man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” Luke 15:1–2

Jesus (1) “welcomed” them and (2) Ate with them

– In middle eastern or Jewish culture, to eat with someone is a sign of relationship. Jesus made them feel valued and included.

– **As a result, they were drawn to him! HE SAW THEM IN FULL COLOUR!**

**The religious Pharisees were spiritually red/green blind!**

(They were blind to who these people were.)

**These people were nothing more than sinners, law breakers, and people you should avoid!**

**Result:** They were drawn to Jesus not to them.

- Last week **Pastor Wayne** preached about **“The Church No One Wants to Leave”** and how we can reach the DONES & the NONES. His first point on how we can be that type of church was...

The unchurched seek **COMMUNITY without judgement.**

**That’s what Jesus was offering!** He welcomed them and ate with them... **COMMUNITY.**

**The religious Pharisees wanted JUDGEMENT before community.**

**What makes the difference?**

How He saw people... they had worth and they were valuable to God. They were weary, scattered, dejected; sheep with no shepherd!

Illustration:

– A few weeks ago, I mentioned that we had a family of raccoons living on our property. The mama has 4 little pups. I’m well aware of all the different opinions about raccoons and their reputations!

– A few days ago, I opened my door and there through the screen glass was mama with this look that said, “I’m hungry, got any food?”

– A few days later, I was talking with a friend and told him this story. His quick response was: *“The only raccoon that I want to see is the one I have shot with my shotgun!”*

I see a raccoon as...

– One of God’s creations just trying to survive.

– A mama just trying to raise her little ones.

– *“Feed them a little food and they won’t bother your garbage”*

He sees a Raccoon as...

– A pest that destroys property and gets into his garbage.

– A nuisance that must be eliminated before those pups grow up.

– *“Feed them! I’ll feed them alright! With some lead!”*

**How you see people is how you will value them and treat them!**

**“Jesus was moved with compassion for them because he saw them as tired, weary and without a shepherd.”**

**How do we see the DONES & the NONES?** (the dechurched and the irreligious)

Are we spiritually colour-blind? Red/Green deficient?

**If we are to reach the world, we will first have to see the world the way God sees the world!**

Only as we see the world the way God sees the world can we truly have compassion, care, love, and concern for the world!

The tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes (these are the religious people) complained, saying, "This Man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Luke 15:1-2

So, Jesus replies to them with a 4-part parable about a lost sheep, a lost coin and two lost sons. In this story I want to point out:

- 1) We all belong (We have a place where we belong.)
- 2) People get lost. (They lose their way for a variety of reasons.)
- 3) Everyone matters (God doesn't want one to get left out.)
- 4) God's love is relentless (He will never stop chasing you.)

When we get these 4 principles, it will change the way we see people (the dechurched and the irreligious; the DONES & NONES!

**1) First the part about the LOST SHEEP**

*"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'"*

- 1) **WE ALL BELONG** (Sheep belong to a fold. God sees people as belonging to His fold.)
- 2) **PEOPLE GET LOST** (They lose their way for a variety of reasons.)  
In this part of the story, sheep get lost because they make stupid decisions.
- 3) **EVERYONE MATTERS** (The shepherd doesn't think, "Oh well, can't win them all." Every sheep matters! If everyone matters to God, then everyone needs to matter to us!)
- 4) **GOD'S LOVE IS RELENTLESS** (In this case, the Shepherd is God who pursues the lost sheep UNTIL He finds it!)

**If we want to see the DONES & NONES like God sees them, we must see them as lost weary sheep away from the shepherd!**

**2) The next part of the story is about the LOST COIN.**

*"Suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.'"*

- 1) **WE ALL BELONG** (Jesus is referring to a coin set that most likely would have gone around her neck as a necklace.)

- 2) **PEOPLE GET LOST** (In this part of the story, the coin gets lost by no fault of their own,) *I've met people outside of the church who used to be part of a church community but got hurt, rejected, felt unwanted or terribly hurt and found themselves in the "out".*
- 3) **EVERYONE MATTERS** (Every coin matters!)
- 4) **BUT, GOD'S LOVE IS RELENTLESS** (In this case, the woman is God who pursues the lost coin UNTIL she finds it!)

**If we want to SEE the DONES & NONES like God sees them, we must VALUE them like He values them!**

**"For God SO loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16**

### **3) Jesus continued with the story of the **LOST SON**:**

*"A man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate".*

- 1) **WE ALL BELONG** (This wayward foolish son belonged to a family EVEN THOUGH HE DID NOT FEEL LIKE HE DID!).
- 2) **PEOPLE GET LOST** (In this part of the story, the son gets lost by his own doing. Mildly putting it, he completely and intentionally blew it BIG TIME!)
- 3) **EVERYONE MATTERS** (But to his father, he still MATTERED!)
- 4) **AND, GOD'S LOVE IS RELENTLESS** (In this case, the father is God in Jesus who waits patiently UNTIL the son comes to his senses and then he runs to him with arms open and filled with unconditional love and forgiveness!)

There is nothing that will touch the DONES & NONES like when they see in us the UNCONDITIONAL LOVE and compassion demonstrated in this story!

4) The last part of the story describes the **LOST OLDER SON**.

*“The older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music & dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ “The older brother became angry & refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf!’ “ ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”*

Many of the DONES & NONES are described in this part of the story

- 1) **THEY BELONG** (They belong to the family of God EVEN THOUGH THEY DON'T WANT TO RECOGNIZE THE REST OF THEIR BROTHERS OR SISTERS! *“This son of yours”*.)
- 2) **THEY GET LOST**. (In this part of the story, the older son gets lost because of his anger with his brother.) I’ve met many of these older brothers and sisters that no longer go to church. They are filled with bitterness and are angry about something or someone in the church.
- 3) **THEY MATTER** (“The father goes out and pleads with him! Come in, you are my son, he is your brother”.)
- 4) **THEY ARE LOVED BY GOD** (This father is God pleading with his son to accept his brother and come in. His LOVE is relentless!)

**If we want to see the OLDER BROTHERS like God sees them, then we will have to be willing to value them and plead with them, like this Father who represents God’s love for the older angry son!**

*Invitation...*

*Closing prayer...*