

What is your Mindset?

Mar 8:31-38 Rom 4:13-25 Gen 17:1-7, 15-16

When we talk of a mindset, we usually use the term in a negative way,
Inflexible, narrow-minded, unable to see another viewpoint,
in a rut.

But a mindset can be positive – it depends what you set your mind on.

SO...

What is *your* mindset today?

What is the focus of your life?

What is it that turns you on? Excites you? Motivates you?

What is it that you think about most of all?

And what about the way you look at life?

Especially the way you think about God, about Jesus, about
Christianity?

We read that Jesus' disciple, Peter, had a mindset.

He believed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God
(he had just said so)

His mindset seemed to be that he expected Jesus, the Messiah,
to be victorious in liberating the Jews from the Romans, and setting up
Jerusalem as the religious capital of the world once again.

He foresaw that once Jesus claimed the victory, the disciples would
reign with him...

It came as something of a shock to then hear Jesus go on to say...

*that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be
rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be
killed, and after three days rise again.*

Peter is quite dismayed. He takes him on one side, quietly and
“Rebuked him”.
(Can you imagine taking Jesus on one side and telling him off?)

What did he say? Maybe it was...

“Look you can't say those sorts of things.

You'll lose all your followers

You've got it wrong. Don't lose heart.

God won't abandon you.

Your thinking is getting confused

You're getting into the wrong
mindset, thinking of defeat.”

*But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and
said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind
not on divine things but on human things.”*

Jesus was very straightforward,

“Peter, it's you that has the mindset!

You think in human terms, but not the way God thinks.”

Your arguments may sound very plausible, but they are based
on totally wrong assumptions!

“Let me spell it out for you.”

And he calls the crowd & his disciples together and says...

*“If any want to become my followers, let them deny
themselves and take up their cross and follow me.*

If you think that being a follower of Christ is the promise of an easy
and prosperous life, think again!

Being a follower of Christ will involve a change of mindset

- taking your eyes off yourself, and firmly fixing them on Jesus
Christ.

- being prepared to suffer deprivation and hardship,
sleeplessness and persecution

- willing to shaken out of our comfort zones

Does this mean that the Christian life is dreary, negative, fatalistic?

Does it mean that all we have is the promise of eternal life after we die

Do Christians go around only interested in dying?
When Jesus said ³⁵*For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.* I don't believe he only meant that you will save your life when you die, but that you will find life NOW.

There is a richness of experience in following Christ which transcends all the hardships

(Read in Acts of Peter and the disciples rejoining when they were found worthy to suffer for Christ)

If you think this is still too hard a word to take, let me remind you of something else...

"There is no other viable option."

³⁶*For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?*

³⁸*Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."*

So what is your mind set on today...

How negative life seems to be?

Complaining about everything

(I knew a gentleman who was sure he was ill and dying.

Doctors could find nothing but he was always in pain. Nothing

you suggested would be any good, nor did he act on the suggestions which would have helped. His life revolved around misery and the wish to die. He was trapped in his mindset)

A mindset of fear?

Global warming, Stockmarket plunging, people feeling vulnerable

A mindset of apathy?

I'm too happy with my house, my car.

I'm too comfortable in my churchlife to take on new challenges

A mindset of resignation?

I've always had this temper.

I've always had a problem with greed.

I've always had this problem with lust.

I can never be happy unless I'm accumulating things.

I'm always unreliable, I don't seem to be able to get it together.

What is this saying? – God isn't powerful enough to change me!

I'll never be any different (which is very like apathy – "I couldn't be bothered")

This sort of mindset looks to human failure and says...

"It is the way it will always be"

But FAITH looks on human potential and says

"It can different in God's hands"

So is your mind set on Jesus Christ, not as the one who will solve all your problems, but as the one who brings you to God?

Is your mind set in faith in God.

Abraham's effective life *started in his old age*. He left the city to live a nomadic life in a tent. He started raising a child at 100 and believed the promises of God. He stands as the father of the Jewish and Arabic nations. A giant of faith.

ARE YOU BOGGED DOWN IN YOUR CHRISTIAN WALK?
AND IF SO...

WHERE? What is the sticking point

WHAT are you going to do about it?

Ask God's Spirit to fill you.

Make yourself accountable to someone.

WHEN are you going to do it?

Make it today – Don't keep putting it off.

(Being bogged is only pleasant if you like lying in mud

The sooner you get moving again – the freer you will feel)

Will you live the rest of your life with your mind set on human things
Or will your mind be set on Christ in faith?

The choice is yours – but don't put it off.