

ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 4 Issue 25

AUGUST 25, 2024

Wisdom (God's Preferences)



Chapter 5, in our companion book, is about wisdom. In particular, the wisdom of choosing a life partner. Jones tells a group of young adults how they can tell a lot about a person by the “leaves” they drop. Jones uses leaf as a metaphor for clues offering insight into a person’s likes and dislikes.

“Wisdom can be gathered in your downtime,” Jones tells the curious listeners gathered around him at the local golf course. *Page 2*

Small (Small things matter)



Henry Warren sees the big picture. His challenge is being in all the cameos calling for his attention. Busy is an understatement for Henry. Perhaps it’s his big picture that allows him to ignore any internal voices calling telling Henry how he treats people matters. Perhaps his vision is

just far enough out of focus that he can’t see the chaos created by his lack of ethics.

Page 13

EVERYONE
HAVE A
WONDERFUL
WEEK!!

DONATE

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And "One of wisdom's greatest benefits," Jones added, "is accurate discernment — the learned ability to immediately tell right from wrong...Good from evil. Acceptable from unacceptable."

It is possible to summarize Chapter 6 in one sentence. What we do matters. Jones sits with an elderly woman on a bench made by her late husband. Willow had recently concluded it was time for her to join her husband. She reckoned her usefulness was over. Now, Willow was "hanging around like somebody's forgotten holiday wreath, still on the front door in March." It was time for her life to be over.

When Willow shares her dismay with Jones, she gets pushback. "Who gave you permission to decide that you had nothing more to do, nothing more to offer?" Jones replies, catching Willow completely by surprise.

Wait! Aren't we in charge of whether we choose to be useful? Don't we choose our actions based on our own assessments?

The answer is yes, but our answer to the question doesn't negate Jones' point.

Our decision doesn't change whether we're leaving something undone. Whether we don't do what God wants us to do. People often reject God. Often, it's unintentional on our part. We either forget the point Jones made to Willow or we simply respond with faulty discernment.

Which takes us back to the prior chapter and one of wisdom's greatest benefits.

Good intentions and a dose of wisdom aren't enough. We need daily inoculations against our human weaknesses that compete with wisdom. Spiritual disciplines, including prayer and reading scripture, offer help. Jones explains to his audience how friends can offer another source of wisdom.

I suspect God hates abortion and cries with each one. I also suspect God hates rape, incest, divorce, climate change and lies. So I believe God is on the side of reproductive freedom, reducing our consumption of meat and prefers renewable energy over fossil fuels. I believe God is a progressive.

But does God interfere in elections? And if God gets involved, does God stick with U.S. elections? If so, which candidate is God's choice for president?

First, according to Pew Research, about half of us believe God doesn't get involved with elections. The rest either don't believe in God at all or believes God plays favorites to the point of influencing outcomes. A small percentage think God's preference is based on policy.

Their findings were nearly identical after the elections of Obama and Trump. I think God loves diversity.

The Rev Billy Holland, in an article for the Jackson Sun, a newspaper serving East Tennessee, writes, "Instead of trying to change everyone else, let's ask God to help us become the person He has called us to be. It's a good possibility that a portion of what we think is being interpreted through a lens that is dusty and out of focus. Have we considered embracing humility, setting aside our party bias, and sincerely praying that God would reveal the individual He wants us to vote for? Can we agree that God knows who would be the best person for the job?"

I have my preferences, but since I can't see the future and God can, I'll need to settle for my best guess and cast my vote the best I can. Since character means a lot to me you can likely guess my preference. *Page 15*

IN OUR PRAYERS

Virginia Bigger Richard Oram
 Sylvia Pittman Jonathon Misner
 Mirium Watson Terrance Williams



FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO ARE
 HOMEBOUND OR IN NURSING CARE

Dean Lamoreaux
 Norma Buzzard Nancy Elston



**COMING UP THIS WEEK
 AUGUST 26 - SEPTEMBER 1**



| | | | |
|--------|-----|----------|--|
| Aug 26 | Mon | 2:30pm | Staff Meeting |
| Aug 27 | Tue | 10:00am | Food Distribution at Asbury UMC |
| | | 3:00pm | CDC Board Meeting |
| Aug 28 | Wed | 11am-1pm | Angel Closet at SFSK |
| Aug 29 | Thu | | |
| Aug 30 | Fri | | |
| Aug 31 | Sat | | |
| Sept 1 | Sun | 10:30am | New Beginnings Contemporary Worship |

(We are live on [Facebook](#) and our newly launched [YouTube channel](#). You can find these links along with more information about us on our website at [FlintAsbury.org](#).)

Upcoming Worship Series — “Perspective” ..

We have probably all heard (or even uttered) the phrase, “That really puts things into perspective.” Perspective is all about relativity; when you pull back and look at the larger picture and take a different view, maybe things aren’t so bad, or maybe there’s a solution where it seemed like there was not before. Drawing with perspective will help you understand the big picture of your work and perspective drawing for beginners is much easier than you think.

In their article, the artists offer an introduction to the use of perspective in various art forms. Noting that while the techniques and possibilities of utilizing perspective in art are many. In our companion book, Jones takes illustrates the art of offering new perspectives to persons struggling with life challenges.

Martha! You are worried and troubled over so many things, but just one is needed. Luke 10: 41-42

Luke tells a story about a time when Jesus visited His friends Mary and Martha, along with His disciples. Martha busied herself preparing a meal and offering hospitality to their guests. Meanwhile, Mary sat with the men listening to Jesus.

Martha was not happy with her sister and complained to Jesus that she was not helping. Jesus said to Martha, “You are worried and troubled over so many things, but just one is needed.”

Jesus offered Martha a different perspective to consider. And, of course, Jesus tells you and me to consider different perspectives when we’re a hot mess.

Jesus tells us elsewhere that trouble will find us but He offers a peace that transcends all challenges and a Way of love that brings His peace to all humankind.

Here is the outline if you want to read the chapters from our companion book as we progress through our series:

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| August 4 | Chapters 1 & 2 |
| August 11 | Chapters 3 & 4 |
| August 18 | Chapters 5 & 6 |
| August 25 | Chapters 7 & 8 |
| Sept 1 | Chapters 9 & 10 |

I pray that you will join us each Sunday morning at 10:30 am. We share our weekly episodes on [Facebook](#) and our [YouTube channel](#). We go live at 10:30 am. You can find these links along with more information about us, or join our live broadcast on our [website](#) at FlintAsburyChurch.org.

Pastor Tommy


Andy Andrews. *The Noticer: Sometimes, all a person needs is a little perspective.* Nashville: W Publishing Group, 2011.

Article contributions by Mark Willenbrink and Mary Willenbrink, Vanessa Wieland and Maria Woodie. “Learn to Draw by Putting Things into Perspective,” © ArtistsNetwork, 2024. Retrieved from: [Link](#)

“Feed Flint”



“Feed Flint”



A meal goes a long way for a senior living alone, a family struggling to make ends meet, or a child fearful of empty shelves at home. But for the residents of Flint who carry the effects of lead-tainted water, nutrition is critical. Feed Flint provides locally grown, chemical-free, fresh produce to residents living in and around Flint. And we're hoping that you can help us provide 10,000 meals this summer.

Feed Flint includes takeout meals, produce boxes with recipes, and home deliveries as part of our work to guide and support families in moving to sustainable abundance. The reality is that Michigan's food insecurity levels got worse during the COVID-19 pandemic, and this summer's recovery is leaving behind those at the most risk of having to miss meals.

Flint families continue to struggle with the ongoing effects of the water crisis.

We're bringing together the resources of the Asbury Community Development Corporation. This includes Asbury Farms, the South Flint Soup Kitchen, the Asbury Community Help Center, multiple food pantries, and our Sizzling Culture Mobile Food Trailer. Our plan is to care for our neighbors when they need it most. We accept all people as they are, and our doors are always open to anyone.

Asbury Farms provides locally grown produce used to create fabulous and nutritious meals. Our seed-to-table approach is community-based. This not only helps families make it through emergencies and crises. We help move families towards sustainable abundance.

Our Sizzling Culture program provides jobs and new skills to our city's youth. This includes year-round employment. Our staff and most of our volunteers come from the neighborhoods we support. We call this sustainable abundance because families move from need-based on scarcity to enough based on community-generated abundance.

Our work is also about food and justice. Our vision is a revitalized community where every resident can use their talents and passions for the common good, where children grow into active citizens. And all residents can enjoy safety, good health, and a culture that fosters life-long learning and satisfying lives. This summer, help us address food insecurity and strengthen Flint's budding local food system by supporting the Feed Flint campaign. Thank you for taking the time to see what we're doing and considering how you can help.

Donate to our Feed Flint Campaign by visiting:
flintasbury.org/feed-flint-donate

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS & MORE:

Your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise God.

Matthew 5:14-15

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS:

1. Read Matthew 5:14-15. What does it mean to you to be a “light on a hill?”
2. Read this week’s articles titled *Small*. What are the morals that matter most to you? Do you believe the U.S. is losing our moral compass? What evidence leads you to your conclusion? What are the small things that matter most to you?
3. How can the members of your group help you this week and on-going to help you to be more receptive to hearing and understanding the Word of God? Pray for each other to have the Holy Spirit bless you with more courage.



South Flint Soup Kitchen ...

BOTTLED WATER DRIVE

All Year Long!

Our clients need bottled water for cooking,
going with sack lunches, to bathe and brush
their teeth with, and MORE!

Donations are accepted Monday-Friday

11:00am-12 Noon at South Flint Soup Kitchen,

3410 Fenton Rd (3 blocks north of Atherton Rd)

Flint MI 48507

Any questions, please call 239-3427 or 235-0016 or

Email us at southflintsoupkitchen@gmail.com

To donate: www.mightycause.com/feedflint



Show Your Support For Your Local Farm

We need your help to purchase fencing to keep our furry friends from eating up all our crops and not sharing with us.

How You Can Donate

- Text "FARMCDC"
- to 53-555
- Scan QR Code

Donate Now



More Information :



(810) 235-0016



funding@flintasbury.org

Jones is back in town, but he is also in jail. Andy receives a call in the middle of the night to pick him up. Jones is tight-lipped about the circumstances of his brief incarceration. After arriving to bail him out, Andy learns his friend opened an unusual business in one of the resort town's most high-profile shopping districts.

As summer nears, a practical joker becomes bolder and more inventive with each prank. Could Jones be behind some of it? Why is it every person Jones meets has a secret they will reveal only to him?

Based on a true story, Just Jones wraps fiction, allegory, and inspiration into stories about people needing miracles. Andy and Jones invite us on a journey. Along the way, we're reminded of the importance of perspective, the power of connection, and the ability we all have to help make miracles happen. To make the impossible happen.

We have a few books. But both new and used copies are available through most book retailers and libraries. The price on Amazon for a new hardcover edition, as of the publication of this article, is \$13.22. Used copies are available for less, and the Kindle version is \$9.99.

Here is the schedule of chapters for our *Miracle Series*:

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| September 8 | Chapters 1 to 4 |
| September 15 | Chapters 5 to 8 |
| September 22 | Chapters 9 to 12 |
| September 29 | Chapters 13 to 16 |
| October 4 | Chapters 17 to 20 |
| October 11 | Chapters 21 to 24 |
| October 18 | Chapters 25 to Epilogue |

Our Book Club does not meet as a group. However, our weekly messages reference that week's chapters. You can anticipate spoiler alerts unless you keep up with the pace. You can purchase your own copy or visit your local library.

You can contact our office with questions, by phone or simply type your question or enter a prayer request on our website's homepage — FlintAsburyChurch.org.

Pastor Tommy

Andy Andrews. *Just Jones: Sometimes a Thing Is Impossible . . . Until It Is Actually Done*. Nashville: W Publishing Group, 2020.

Cash or checks can be sent to/dropped off at South Flint Soup Kitchen, 3410 Fenton Road, Flint, MI 48507. Please make checks out to South Flint Soup Kitchen!

Online at www.mightycause.com/feedflint

Donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday 11am-12Noon. Calling ahead is not necessary, but our needs change frequently, so calling ahead of time is a good idea!

Give time! We need volunteers!!! Volunteers arrive at 9:30am and are done by 12:30pm. Tasks include handing out lunches, assisting in the Angel Closet, light cleaning, putting together items to pass out to clients, and more.

Refer people!!

Questions??? Call 810-239-3427
or email southflintsoupkitchen@gmail.com

There's a lot of Henry's out there. Big picture people who conclude life is a competition where the golden rule and fair play is for losers. For some, their motto is do to others before they can do something worse to you.

Henry was miserable. But his busyness distracted his attention just enough to convince Henry he had little choice but to stay on track. It was like he was spinning too many plates and there was always one plate teetering, ready to stop and crash.

Henry thought he was building success. Instead, Henry was more like a teetering plate about to crash. But his focus on the big picture caused him to miss the details that make a big picture worth seeing.

We each choose how we'll spend the precious hours and days of our lives. Henry made choices with each phone call, each worker he shorted and each promise he made he did intend to keep.

According to a 2022 Gallup poll, the vast majority of Americans are pessimistic about the moral fiber of our country. While the results of their moral polls vary by political party affiliation, there is a consensus that improvement in the future seems bleak.

The number one issue cited as evidence of moral decline is a lack of consideration for others.

Three years before the Gallup study was released, anthropologists at the University of Oxford released the results of research identifying seven universal moral rules. The common rules discovered among 60 cultures they surveyed included help your family, help your group, return favors, be brave, defer to superiors, divide resources fairly, and respect others' property. The research concluded these seven cooperative behaviors are considered morally good in all cultures.

Lead author and senior researcher at the Institute for Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology, Dr. Oliver Scott Curry noted, "All agree that cooperating, promoting the common good, is the right thing to do."

According to Matthew, in His Sermon on the Mount, after Jesus listed numerous blessings for His listeners, He reminded them not only do they matter a great deal, but everything they do matters. People notice even the smallest acts of kindness.

We impact the moral fiber of our community by treating others with kindness and respect.

Your light must shine before people so that they will see the good things you do and praise God.

Matthew 5:14-15

You can join us each Sunday in person or online by clicking the button on our [website's](#) homepage.—

[Click here to watch.](#) This button takes you to our [YouTube Channel](#). You can find more information about us on our website at FlintAsburychurch.org.

A reminder that we publish this newsletter that we call the *Circuit Rider* each week. You can request this publication by email. Send a request to FlintAsburyUMC@gmail.com or let us know when you send a message through our [website](#). We post an archive of past editions on our website under the tab, Connect - choose [Newsletters](#).

Pastor Tommy

Parts of our series was inspired by Andy Andrews. *The Nurturer: Sometimes, all a person needs is a little perspective*. Nashville: W Publishing Group, 2011. Megan Brenan and Nicole Willcoxon. "Record-High 50% of Americans Rate U.S. Moral Values as 'Poor'." © Gallup, June 15, 2022. Retrieved from: [link](#)

"Seven moral rules found all around the world." © Oxford University, Feb 11, 2019. Retrieved from: [link](#)

Whatever or whoever gave insight to Solomon, the young man displayed great wisdom in asking God for wisdom to lead well. Solomon realized he was too young to know what to do. He wasn't ready to lead. When God asked Solomon what he most desired, Solomon asked for wisdom so he could govern justly. A wise choice, it turned out. God piled on wealth as a reward for Solomon's unselfish request.

And later, Solomon would prove to the world that even wisdom fails us if we allow arrogance and entitlement to cloud our wisdom.

Wisdom helps us discern God's will from our own. A trait clearly missing in most of humankind, including many Christians. And the gospels offer substantial illustrations of wisdom in action, along with many clues about God's character and preferences. The better we know Jesus and consider the choices He made, the better our chances of doing the same.

Jesus once asked His followers, "What about you? Who do you say I am?"

We answer Jesus' question with our claims of knowing God's will. Just before this conversation Jesus had with His disciples, they witnessed numerous miracles where Jesus healed the sick and fed the hungry.

The disciples saw Jesus' grace in action. They witnessed how His compassion took precedence over tradition. They didn't see bias or prejudice.

Paying attention to God's character helps us better recognize God's wisdom. We often blame our choices on God. Fortunately, God's grace has no limits. And God's love knows no boundaries.

*Jesus asked His followers;
"What about you? Who do
you say I am?"*

Luke 9:20

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Billy Holland. "Who does God want to be President?." © Jackson Sun, October 30, 2020.

Retrieved from: [link](#)

Gregory A. Smith. "About a third in U.S. see God's hand in presidential elections, but fewer say God picks winners based on policies." © Pew Research, March 12, 2020.

Retrieved from: [link](#)



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enrolled

today! Enrollment applications can be downloaded at Kroger.com

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ZERO WASTE**

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Add the South Flint Soup Kitchen to your Kroger Rewards Card and Help Feed Flint

We're giving **\$2 million**

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Where shopping and giving come together and you can help!



Scan to Donate



EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

Help Asbury CDC enrich the lives of youth by donating to help get Tablets for them to attended classes for job training. We're looking to get 5 Tablets for training for summer jobs

www.asburycdc.org/info

Text-to-Give 53-555 keyword = CDCYOUTH

Flint Asbury Community Development Corporation

South Flint Soup Kitchen

3410 Fenton Rd. Flint, MI 48507

Meet up

Eat up!



Ages
0-18

Mon - Weds - Friday

Breakfast

9-10am

June 17 - Aug 30

Lunch

12-1pm

www.SouthFlintSoupKitchen.org
www.FlintAsburyCDC.org



MEET UP and EAT UP!!

Healthy food to fuel your
summer... Free!

Served at: Asbury UMC 1653 Davison Rd Flint

When: Summer 2024

Meals: Breakfast 8:30am—9:30am

Lunch 12Noon-1:00pm

Days meals are served: Monday—Friday

For more information: (810) 235-0016

FOOD GIVE AWAY

FREE

**UPCOMING
DATES**

July 19

Aug. 21

Sept 18

Oct. 16

Nov. 20

Dec. 18

SOUTH FLINT SOUP KITCHEN

southflintsoupkitchen.org

FROM 9 AM UNTIL GONE!

