

WHERE DO YOU LOOK?

I held an 11-month-old toddler in my arms the other day. We were surrounded by people who all wanted to get her attention. Something startled her as they tried their different antics to gain her smiles and laughter or to perhaps get the coveted "lean" (leaning towards an individual meaning: You may hold me now). As she processed this intrusion of worry, she looked at me. Her blue eyes questioned, "Is that ok, RyRy, or should I be angry, afraid, or happy?" She searched my face looking for an answer. She was looking to me to know how she should move forward with this new situation.

Uncertainty, fear, and doubt are things that plague all of us. The world is a sketchy place, and new scenarios present themselves daily. When this happens, do we "trust our gut" or "go with our instincts?" Where do we go mentally, emotionally, and spiritually to discern what our response should be?

Have you ever responded to something with a knee-jerk response, only to find out you were wrong?

Humanity's correlation with toddlers is an accurate one at best. Compared to God, it feels fair to call ourselves children. However, looking around (even in the mirror), it is clear that we struggle to understand what is happening, and we definitely don't know what we are doing.

Where do you look?

When the circumstances around you change, when things get dicey, and you don't know exactly what to do, what's your metric? What do you measure yourself against? Is it your instinct? Is it society's playbook? Is there a better option?

Psalm 5:8

Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.

I think this is precisely what David was talking about when he penned the words of Psalm 23.

The Lord is my shepherd. He carries me and protects me. He leads me when I don't know where to go or how to respond. With him, I'm safe. With him, I can move in the right direction.

No wonder it is essential to keep eyes fixed and focused on Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2).

Where are you looking?

Shalom,
Ryan