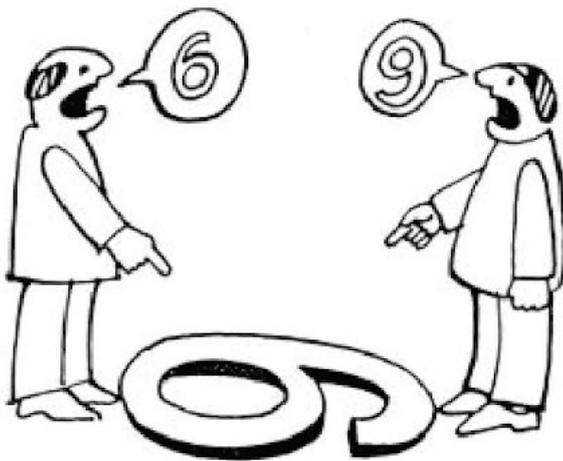


E-ffervescence

Taranaki Cathedral Church of St Mary | 37 Vivian St , New Plymouth
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The Tyranny of Assumptions

The above phrase is one I try to live by – and is one of my most oft-quoted quips.



[HERE](#) is some information about assumptions Shift Management who say it better than I could!

As I have paid attention to the kinds of comments people make in meetings and conversation, I have found the assumptions that underlie these dialogues often stem from generalisations or misinformation. And none of us are

immune to this. In fact, I have found that these assumptions can be grouped into 8 general categories – all harmful – that sneak into the way we think, speak, and behave.

The Dangerous 8

Without further ado, here they are:

1. Making decisions for the whole based on my personal preference – In other words, letting what I like or don't like become what everyone likes or doesn't like. Example: "Why do we need a train to Calgary? I would never use it."
2. Insisting that some past experience I had is the current reality – Statements that sound something like, "Back in the day when we only had two TV channels..." convey the impression that what once was is much better than what now is.
3. Thinking that my cultural or personal experience is the same as everyone else. It can be comforting for people to imagine that others think and behave as they do: it makes us feel as though we "fit in" and that we are "normal." The trouble is that "normalcy" is a social construct and that this belief – that our experience is everyone's experience – is entirely false. In fact this kind of

thinking leads to an inability to consider alternatives, for example, "What barriers? I didn't have any issues."

4. Concluding that the behaviour of others is directly attributed to their character flaws
 - Interestingly we tend to attribute our own successes to our character strengths and our failures to circumstance, and we tend to believe others' successes are due to circumstances and their failures are because of their innate character attributes. So, when we get great results, we think it's because we are so well-organized. When others' succeed, we tend to think it's because the timing was right. When we fail, it's because things just didn't align how they should have, and for others, it's because they didn't have enough discipline, common sense, or forethought.
5. Not verifying the source or accuracy of the data – Sometimes we defer to eternally unnamed experts rather than checking our facts. Think, "Research says...right?"
6. Staying stuck in a past experience and continuing to bring it up without identifying what was learned or what the necessary next steps should be. You've seen this pattern before, maybe even in yourself: "It was 20 years ago but I'm still hurt."
7. Inability to identify our own resistance to learning and how it is affecting the progress of the group – While we might consider our rigidity a strength, being around naysayers who prefer to play the "devil's advocate" and who constantly find faults and resist change can create a negative climate for everyone around them.
8. Negative and discouraging comments about the capacity of the community that box people into the past and don't allow them to contribute to the present. For example, "That department will never learn the software, don't even bother talking to them."



So how do we overcome these assumptions that can be so detrimental to perceiving people, things and contexts the way they really are or with the potential they actually have?

Here are a few tips for challenging assumptions I have found helpful:

- Consider that 90% of what we perceive and assume is wrong (wait – did you check the source of this data?). “Assume” that you do need to get more information and that what you already have is likely to be faulty. This develops a learning attitude.
- Take note of things you say regularly or things you find regularly irritating. Ask yourself what the assumption is behind a statement you are making and challenge yourself to uncover it’s source and stop it in its tracks.
- Reverse roles: Put yourself into your assumption and see how it feels – if you don’t like it, neither will others.
- Get in the habit of collecting facts from as many diverse sources as you can. If diverse sources agree, you may be on the right track.
- Double check your sources and your data, ask questions, think before speaking – what will be the long-term effects of this attitude, this comment, this judgment?
- Communicate with others when something bothers you, but in an open-ended way that allows the other person to provide input. Use questions that open up possibility – keep the intent positive and give others the benefit of the doubt. For example, you could start a difficult conversation with, “There is something I’m concerned about. I probably misunderstood the situation, so could you clarify this for me?” instead of, “You ALWAYS do _____, what’s your problem?”
- Post the 8 faulty assumptions list somewhere you will remember to look at it.
- Look for people you admire for something they have overcome and learn from their experience. Frequently this is a humbling experience.
- Practice humility. It seems the right thing to do given the percentage of time we make faulty assumptions about people, events and things.

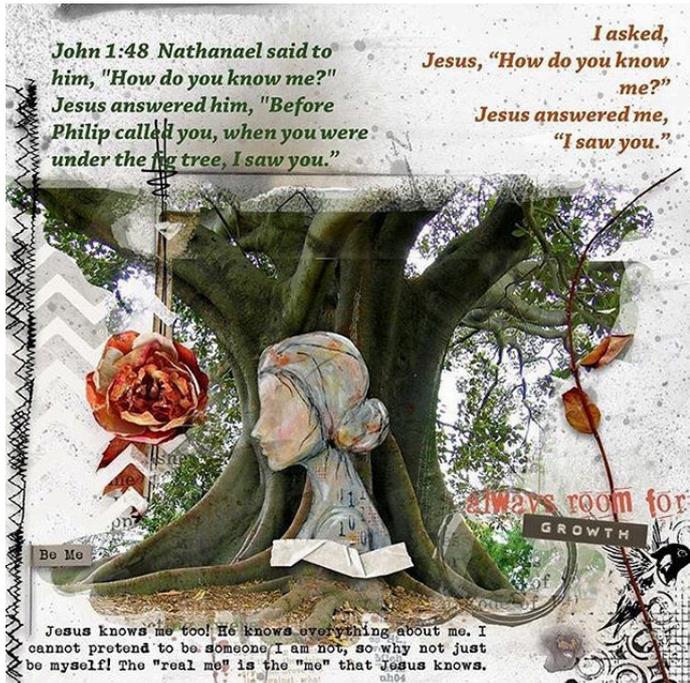
*I am going to make an effort to firstly recognise and then eliminate the ‘dangerous 8’ from my being this year.
I challenge you to do the same!!!*

*Arohanui
Jacqui*



Spirituality

Can anything good come from Nazareth? An Excerpt from Sunday's Sermon regarding assumptions



"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Nathanael's assumption about Jesus is one of those refreshingly human sorts of comments that the Bible is full of- if we care to look.

I mean- how could anything good come out of a backwater little village like Nazareth? It did not even rate a mention among the sixty-three villages of Galilee mentioned in the Hebrew Talmud or the forty-five mentioned by first-century Jewish historian Josephus,

who knew the area well. If 'Lonely Planet' had been around in those days, it wouldn't have got a rating- far less a mention either. It was an insignificant little town, with an estimated population of between one hundred and four hundred people, farmers, shepherds and labourers, many whom built their homes in around the area's soft limestone caves- which was the least expensive form of housing at the time and a sign of relative poverty.

Why wasn't Jesus raised in Sepphoris, a nearby town with a population of thirty thousand, where the wealthy lived in luxury villas with extravagant mosaic tiled flooring, which had shops and theatres aplenty that one could look good in?

Can anything good come out of Nazareth?

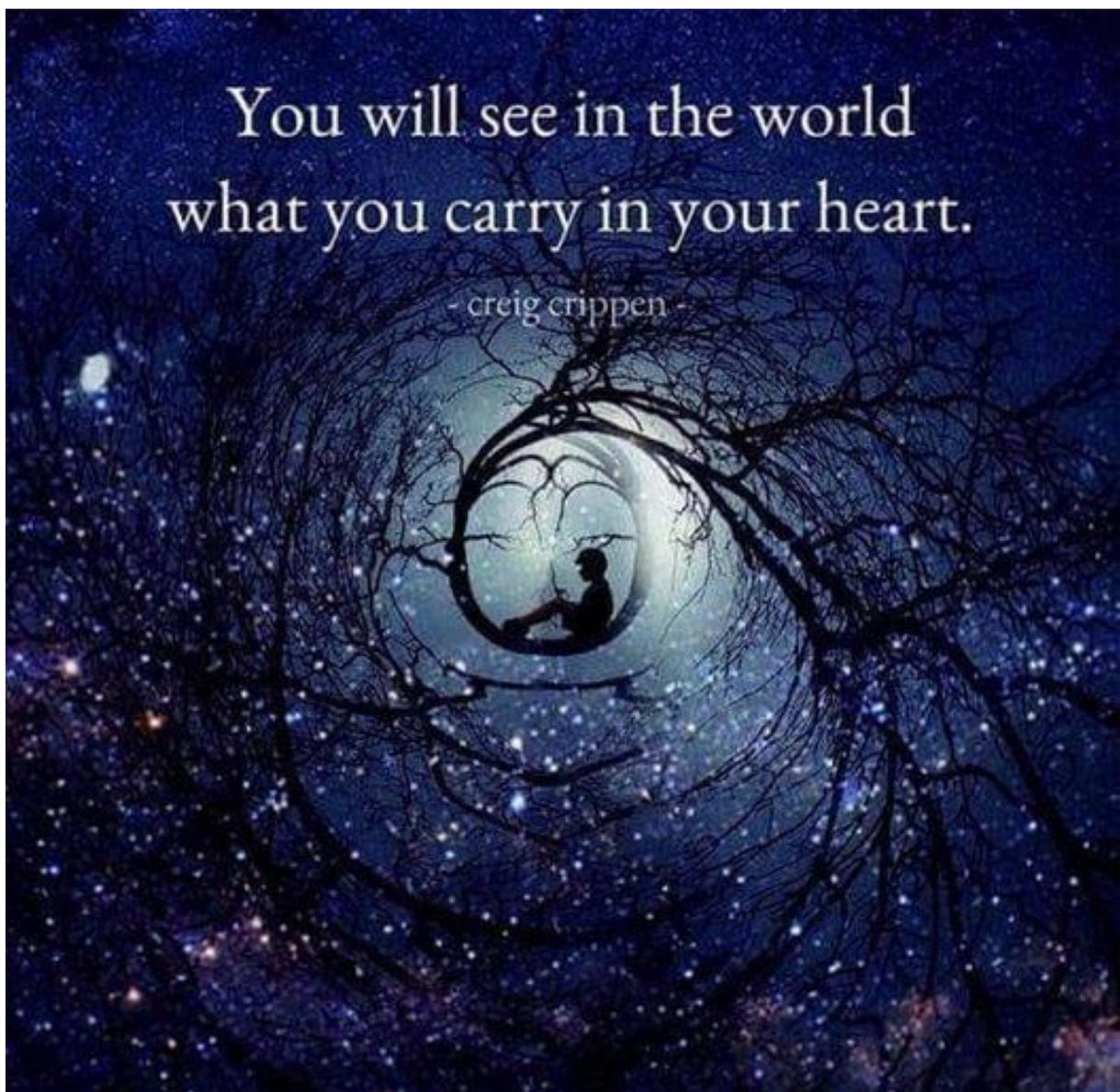
Can anything good come out of whatever 'ism' we have learned to look down on and despise?

More insidious still, can anything good come of the 'ism' assumption that we don't even know we hold- it's been embedded, unquestioningly in us for so long?

And if we are so mired in such assumptions that they affect our ability to see others through the eyes of love, can anything good come from us?

According to Malcolm Gladwell in his book, 'Blink', our assumptions about others bias our ability to actually hear what people are saying or see them for what they are. Often such assumptions come from generalisations or misinformation. And none of us are immune. Assumptions sneak into the way we think, speak, act and behave. And there we have a great example of one when we are invited to stumble into the conversation between Nathaniel and Jesus...

A Meditation of the Week



Checking In

THE CATHEDRAL PROJECT

A TARANAKI TAONGA

UNDERSTANDING OUR PAST, BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Unfortunately our first communication of the year is about a disappointing update.

On the eve of Christmas we were notified that an appeal against the High Court decision delivered by Justice Dooge in November had been lodged by Mr O'Keefe (Mr O'Keefe is the neighbour who in July 2020 instigated the Judicial Review of the New Plymouth District Council's decision to grant a non-notified Resource Consent for aspects of our project).

This is incredibly disappointing as only weeks ago we re-established a schedule with consultants, funders and supporters to get our project back on track. The five month hiatus caused by the Judicial Review has already created an eight month lag for our project. This appeal will inevitably again disrupt and delay our progress.

To minimise that delay, we have applied to the Court of Appeal to have the matter heard urgently, which we hope will see a hearing date before March 2021. On that basis we have decided, for now, to continue as per our December timeline and proceed with completion of the building consent documentation for Te Whare Hononga and the Vicarage refurbishment and the planning of the site-wide exhibition. We will review this decision as things progress and a hearing date is set.

We will keep you fully informed of the situation, but should you have any queries, please get in touch with Michelle (michelle@taranakicathedral.org.nz) who can answer your questions and forward feedback on.

Jenny Goddard & the Project Governance Board

Weekly Notices

Celebrating our 175th Anniversary

In 2021 Taranaki Cathedral is celebrating the 175th anniversary of the first service in the Church of St Mary. We are planning a number of special events throughout the year (more to come in future newsletters) but to kick off festivities, we invite you all to a Parish Picnic on Pūkākā Pa / Marsland Hill on Sunday 31 January 2020 at 12 noon.

Please bring all your picnic gear – rugs, chairs, hats, sunscreen, maybe even a beach umbrella! And most importantly food and drink (please, no alcohol or glass). There will be a recital given on The Kibby Carillon as part of the event and it will be a lovely chance for us to enjoy each other's company and celebrate the beginning of a special year for our Parish.

Community Café

The Community Café is back this coming Tuesday, January 19th! Why not get a group of friends and family together and come along to the Hatherly Hall and let us make breakfast for you!

We have a changing menu of sweet and savoury options like pancakes, crepes, porridge, beans and sausages or toast and preserves. All items are a (suggested) \$1 donation and all money raised goes to local and international causes.

Weekday services

Our weekday are running as usual:

- Bishop's Eucharist – 7 am Tuesdays in Upper Hatherly Chapel.
- Eucharist – 10am, Upper Hatherly Chapel
- Hakari Tapu – 12 noon, the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the Interim Cathedral.

Christopher's 100th Organ Recital

2021's Organ Recital Series will begin with a special 1pm concert on **Saturday 13th of February** (not Thursday the 13th as was previously published incorrectly) at the Interim Cathedral (\$5 admission). The regular series will continue throughout the year on the third Thursday of every month at 12.15pm with admission being a gold coin donation.

New Phone system

Our new phone system has a recorded message that asks to press a key for the option you want. They are: Press 1 for the office, Press 2 for Stop In, Press 3 to talk to a priest (you don't have to wait till the message is over before making your choice).

Sunday's Readings

1 Samuel 3:1-20

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Readings continue on following pages >>>

Psalm 139

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"

even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

O that you would kill the wicked, O God, and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me—

those who speak of you maliciously, and lift themselves up against you for evil!

Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.

See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

1 Corinthians 6:11-20

And this is what some of you used to be. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

John 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

