

Monday, 14 February 2021 – Weekly Inspiration from Rev. Jason

Last night was the "big game" and while I didn't stay up to watch the end of it, I couldn't help but reflect somewhat on the mentality it takes to perform at the highest level of, well, anything. One of our daughter's recent favorite books has a quote attributed to Serena Williams: "we couldn't become champions for real until we became champions in our heads." In short, the way you view yourself shapes your reality.

How do you view yourself, and what is your primary mental orientation? Is it age-related? Career-related? Politics-related? Illness-related? Or is it Christ-related? And I'm not even sure I would argue for "Christian" in this sense because there are, in reality, so many different views on Christianity (Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, Pentecostal, etc.). But to be a Christ-follower...that's a singular way to view one's self, and is more foundational than any other.

In Matthew's gospel we read of Jesus calling Matthew, the tax collector, the one looked-down upon by religious leaders. After Jesus' invitation to follow him (be a Christ-follower), the leaders wonder why Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners ([Matthew 9:9-13](#)). We see that Jesus celebrates those who decide to view themselves primarily and foundationally as his followers, first and foremost. And we can't be Christians in the world until we give our hearts to him.

Prayer: Lord, help me to give my heart and mind to you again. May I see myself primarily as your follower, embodying your love and good news. Amen.