

**At The Movies 2019 | First Man**  
**July 28, 2019 | Pastor Paul Taylor**

Welcome to Rivers Crossing! And welcome Rivers Crossing Online, my name is Paul Taylor and we are in one of my favorite series, At The Movies!

We wrap up next week with Toy Story 4 and we are excited to be doing a toy drive for the Bair Foundation to make sure kids that get placed in a foster home have a gift when they arrive. We love serving our city because we are #ForCincy, what a great opportunity to touch lives through a simple act of giving.

If you bring a new, unopened toy, you will have a chance to win RV rental for the weekend!

Growth Track – We are all about taking steps on our spiritual journeys here and we want to see everyone become a fully engaged follower of Jesus. We’ve designed Growth Track for you to take your next steps and today is week one in the student venue during the 12:30 service. You’ll hear my story and the vision of Rivers Crossing. We want everyone to go through all 4 weeks of growth track, just show up and make sure you hit all 4 weeks.

Today we’re talking about First Man – On the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Apollo 11. First Man tells a very personal story of Neil Armstrong (Ryan Gosling) and his wife Janet (Claire Foy). Sure there are rockets, space, the moon walk (which according to 13% of our followers on Instagram, didn’t happen)...but I found the film to be about one thing, and you can find it in this clip from early in the movie...Let’s watch this together.

Clip 1 – 17:15 “Why do you think space flight is important?” to 18:09 “until now”

Perspective – everyone say perspective.... “Perspective”

**perspective** | pər ˈspɛktɪv | a particular attitude toward or way of regarding something; a point of view

It’s so easy to lose our perspective...when tragedy, difficulty, and pain come...we often fail to see things from someone else’s point of view and from God’s perspective.

In the last 24 hours we’ve had 2 mass shootings. 2 senseless acts of hate and evil. And if we are not careful, we will lose perspective...we will become desensitized to the loss of life, the 29 funerals, 20 in El Paso, 9 in Dayton that will be taking place in the coming days. We won’t see the real families, dozens of families who’s loved ones were shot and are fighting for the lives with months or years of rehabilitation and surgeries ahead of them. We will fail to see through the waves of political rhetoric that will be flooding our social media streams and news outlets. These are people. Husbands, wives, son’s daughters, lovers, friends. So today, as we talk about perspective, let’s cry out to God for our own perspective to be changed. For God to break our hearts for what breaks his.

**Pray for El Paso and Dayton**

Perspective in the film:

- the Gemini 8 entire launch sequence from the inside, the pilot's perspective.
- Kids point of view: "Your daddy is going to the moon.." "Ok, can I play outside."
- Juxtaposition of family and mission, NASA and parenting, perspective of public vs. perspective of private

Today we are going to talk about a having a changed perspective. Seeing things differently. If anyone can talk about a changed perspective and seeing things from God's point of view in a negative, fearful, or hopeless situation it was the Apostle Paul. Yet, you don't see his thoughts characterized by his situation.

Neil Armstrong was like that. He was focused on the mission. He had a singular drive. It carried him through tragedy and failure.

Play Clip 2 - (1:21:35 to 1:23:22) In this clip, you'll see Neil Armstrong face a crash scene and going back to work, friends dying, daughter dying, failed missions, etc.

Similarly, the Apostle Paul was in some horrible situations (i.e. being shipwrecked, bitten by snakes, thrown in prison more times than he could count, being drug out of town to be stoned, being poisoned) Even though his circumstances were horrible, he never let it overcome his mind. He never let it strip him of his effectiveness, in fact in the worst situations he was at his best. He was at his best in bad times because he knew the power of perspective.

However, Neil Armstrong lacked perspective in his personal life. He is so fixed on the mission, that the rest of his life suffers. Men in particular struggle with keeping the perspective that we are, as believers, first followers of Jesus, then dads, then on mission in our vocation.

There is a powerful scene that highlights the growing tension in Neil and Janet Armstrong relationship. He has incredible perspective on getting to the moon. He is driven and focused, but he loses perspective in his family life and responsibility as a husband and father.

Play Clip 3 - 1:33:09 to 1:33:47 and 1:33:50 to 1:35:00

So let's look at what he wrote in Colossians 3:1-4.

Colossians 3:1-4 (ESV) <sup>1</sup>If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek** the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>**Set** your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup>For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

**Seek – same word Jesus uses in Matthew 6:33 (ESV)**

**But **seek** first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Mt 6:33). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

## Set Your Minds –

Take every *thought* captive to obey Christ... 2 Corinthians 10:5

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your *mind*...”. Romans 12:2

...For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a *sound mind*. 2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

A few months ago, we went to shoot my story of coming to faith in Christ in my home town, at the house I grew up in and the church that we walked to right next door. There was a graveyard in between the church and our house. It seemed so HUGE when I was a kid. I would hold my mom’s hand and close my eyes, or run as fast I could to get through it. It seemed so big, but going back nearly 40 years later...it was just a few feet. Maybe 5-10 feet wide.

My perspective changed. Some of us need a change of perspective today. And the table, communion, is the wonderful reminder that Jesus did something incredible for us. He opened a door for us to be able to have an eternal perspective.

Communion was even taken on the moon! Buzz Aldrin brought his communion in his personal effects kit and remembered the way God forever shifted perspective while he was in space.

