There is a Psalm; Psalm 14, that begins saying the fool says in his heart there is no God. Now you know when a Psalm starts out being that blunt, it’s only going to go downhill from there. But it's really not a condemnation on those who say there is no God, only their foolishness in saying it. It’s actually a beautiful Psalm that recognizes the thumbprint of God on the beauty and the orderliness of creation. Now, of course, nature is limited in what it can tell us about God, but it can tell us there must be an intelligence behind all of it. For instance, it can tell us that God loves order, that God loves beauty, and that God loves and protects His creation.

Think for a moment how God has created animals, sometimes the smallest of organisms with the ability to protect themselves. And not just with offensive weapons of claws and teeth. But God has given many animals the ability to hide, to camouflage themselves. We have a newborn deer born with spots that mirror the dapple sunlight in a forest, making it harder to see the
defenseless animal. The tiger's stipes help mute and camouflage its color when it hunts. Of course, not every tiger gets it when it comes to camouflage.

What I find the most fascinating is that God has allowed some animals to be able to actually change their color to blend in to their environment. Most well-known would be the chameleon, able to radically change its’ color to blend into the background so we cannot see it. But the octopus is also incredibly adept at blending in, hiding in the background. Of course, again, not every octopus gets how to blend into the background.

I have one more to show you, perhaps one of the best in natural camouflage; here it is: Christians or the church. Now, you might say, well now, wait a minute I can see every single one of them. But that’s because the church is gathered together. There is safety in numbers, and they are minimally threatened.

But the Church is quite adept at camouflage when they get out into the world. Why is this so? Why does the church stand so brazen and proud when we gather together praising the name of Jesus, lifting His name in song, and then once we get out of the building, we quietly cover our faith and blend into the crowd?

We do it for the same reason most animals do it. For a sense of self-protection. In the end, we all want to live a life of least resistance. We want to get along with others, we don’t want to stand out. Oh, we don’t mind some praise every now and then, a little recognition for our achievement. But we aren’t all that excited at being different. Of living a life that's different than others or perhaps suggesting to anyone around us that their life is wrong. That they need to be more than who they are, that, perhaps just perhaps, the people we know in the world around us need a relationship with Jesus. And that if they don’t have a relationship with Jesus, their eternal salvation is endangered. And they’ll never truly be happy in life until they have Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

We instinctively know people don’t want to hear that. They don’t want anyone to bring up the idea that everything in their life isn’t going well, even though they full well know it. And in the end, it just becomes easier; we think to simply fade into the background. After all, who are we to let anyone know how to live their lives?

This is the third in our series of messages entitled “Corrected Vision”, the idea is that when we become Christians, not only are our souls saved and we are forgiven, but it begins to change how we see the world. It corrects our vision around us.
In our Scriptures today, we see two types of vision that need to be corrected. One is the vision of the world around us. Paul is quite clear in our passage from Romans. Everybody needs a relationship with Jesus Christ. There is no way to heaven, there is no way to be made righteous, there is no way to truly be satisfied in life without Jesus. All around us are people who need to have their vision corrected. But there is the problem - they can’t see if we never show them. And so before we can correct any vision in the world around us, we have to have our vision corrected.

So how does Jesus correct our vision for the world around us?

First, Paul says everyone you meet is in need of redemption and in need of Jesus. And everyone can be changed by Jesus. If we don’t believe in the possibility that Jesus can change any life and that Jesus came for everyone, how will we ever show the world the truth of Christ? One of the ways we camouflage our faith, to be honest, is by just not being very nice and kind to one another. Look at how we speak to other people, look at how we treat people. Look at things we say. Every person you’ve ever met, Jesus died for that person on the cross. That terrible person, that’s a person Jesus can change. But if we don’t start living and being kinder to others, how will they ever see Jesus? We have to stop camouflaging our faith by how we treat other people. Do you see people around you who need Jesus? Has your vision been corrected?

Secondly, we need to stop seeking our purpose and start living it out. I’ve had that conversation with people so many times; what’s my purpose. Do you want to know what it is? As a Christian, your purpose is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Jesus says it at the end of Matthew. Stop hiding and go make disciples. Stop hiding your faith from your kids and intentionally make disciples at home. Yes, it’s perfectly ok to make your kids go to church, to Sunday school, youth group, even when they don’t want to. You have an intentional plan of the person you want them to be when they grow up. School, College; do you have an intentional plan for discipleship? Men, disciple your wives. Treat them better like Jesus. Women, treat your husbands better, disciple them, show them Christ. Kids, disciple your parents or grandparents. How do I do that when I’m a kid? Tell them Jesus loves them. Have them read you a Bible story. Pray for them. Come to think of it, how many of us have a list of people we know who don’t know Jesus? Do you keep a list of them and pray for them? Why not? Don’t you see them as people who need Jesus? Don’t you believe Jesus can change anyone? We need to see others better.

Thirdly, we needed to correct our vision to the point where others can see Jesus in us. Your job is not to blend in. The world will never see Jesus if we don’t show them. Look, at some point,
somebody has to get out of the boat. Jesus walks on water. Now, many of the disciples could have had the experience of walking on water with Jesus. But only one, only Peter got out of the boat. Yes, he sank when he took his eyes off of Jesus, but at least he got out of the boat, at least he walked. The others never had that experience, but they weren’t willing to put their feet where their faith was, they weren’t willing to risk anything.

At some point, if we are ever to impact the world for Jesus, we have to get out of the boat. We have to be willing to put our feet where our faith is, step out into the impossible and share with someone the love of Jesus.

Will they always respond? No. Sometimes you walk on the water, sometimes you sink. But at least you stopped blending in, at least you grabbed onto your purpose, at least for a moment you saw someone the way Jesus sees them and perhaps for a moment through your life others will see Jesus as He is and have their vision corrected. May Jesus correct our vision, and may He correct the world's vision through us. Amen.