

4-16-18 Holy sarcasm

“When I was a kid I used to pray every night for a new bicycle. Then I realized that the Lord doesn't work that way so I stole one and asked Him to forgive me.”

Well, that's a sarcastic joke from comedian Emo Philips, and if you got it, that means you have a healthy right sagittal stratum. Neuroscientists say that's part of your brain recognizes sarcasm.

And while we might think of sarcasm as mean-spirited, it can be positive as well.

Sarcasm requires cognitive complexity, meaning we have to process what someone is saying from different angles.

So when Jesus told some followers to take the plank out of their own eye first, rather than remove the speck from another's eye, they should have used their right sagittal stratum.

Just a thought. I'm Sid Batts, from First Presbyterian Church in downtown Greensboro, fpcgreensboro.org.