Hermeneutics and Communication

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An encounter with a restaurant server challenged my prejudgments. I made assumptions about the server based on my entitlement and the upscale restaurant setting. My high expectations for exceptional customer service caused me to perceive the server's demeanor as insolent and unfriendly, concluding her verbal and non-verbal communication cues.

However, on subsequent visits, I approached the situation differently. Instead of dwelling on past experiences, I shared my son's upcoming trip to Thailand. To my surprise, her countenance changed. She became friendly. She shared insights about her culture and taught my son Thai phrases. The experience that day allowed demonstrated that we can connect with others more deeply if we use analysis as a guide rather than a rigid certainty. (Zimmermann, 2015).

Our judgments cloud our understanding of others. Scripture commands in (Matthew 7:1) to refrain from hastily criticizing others with the standards we hold to avoid facing God's judgment using those same standards. We begin Hermeneutics when we apply our interpretation to a situation or text. (Zimmermann, 2015).

As Christians, we reflect Christ's forgiveness. We extend grace and mercy when we recognize that everyone deserves relational connection. God showed us mercy despite our sinful actions. We ought to act as instruments of God's compassion and embrace our fellow human beings with open hearts and minds rather than prejudge their character based on our own expectations, culture and suppositions.

Zimmermann, J (2015). Hermeneutics: A very short introduction. OUP Oxford.

https://www.amazon.com/Hermeneutics-Very-Short-Introduction-Introductions/dp/0199685355/ref=sr\_1

The assignment response starts on the third page.

WORKS CITED