



Beyond belief

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:2; Matthew 17:1-20: **change.**

Sometimes life brings sudden changes.

The good thing is...

God can work **in us** through any change, and sometimes He is the **change agent.**

As we think about the idea of change let's start in Matthew 17...

Matthew 17:1-5

1 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. 3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said,

“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

Several incredible things happen in this story.

First, the text says Jesus was “transfigured” which means his appearance changed. His face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light.

Then two great heroes of the OT show up... Elijah and Moses. Pretty cool, right?

And if that’s not enough... God speaks from heaven!

God clearly made an impression on the inner circle of Peter, James and John through the Transfiguration... this awe inspiring moment of change.

The event was so etched in Peter's mind that he recounts it as evidence of Jesus' divinity...

2 Peter 1:16-17

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

And not only did Jesus appearance change, but so did Peter, James and John. If they weren't convinced before, they sure were now.

God wants to bring about change in our lives. He wants to move us from where we are to where we ought to be.

Today our core verse is from Romans 12...

Romans 12:2

²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Did you know that we are not to be conformed to the pattern of this world? What does that mean?

We are not to just go along with what the flesh says feels good. We are not to be self-centered and only concerned about our own well being.

How many of us know this to be true...

"Most people will do only what's best for themselves most of the time."

LOOK OUT FOR NUMBER ONE!

Paul says, don't be conformed to the pattern of this world.

NO. We are to do what the Spirit says, not what the FLESH says. We are to love and serve others in the same way God has loved and served us by sending Jesus to be our Savior.

Some of us are on this road and it leads to a bridge that goes nowhere. The river has moved and that route just does not work.

God can work **in us** through any change, and sometimes He is the **change agent**.

Mark Moore suggests four things that can keep us focused on God that He can use to help us fight against culture's influence.

TRANSFORM not CONFORM

SCRIPTURE

Knowing and memorizing God's word can be useful in knowing where and how to follow God's leading in a changing world.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 2:15

¹⁵Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

We have to correctly handle God's word. Don't use God's word to promote your agenda or viewpoint. Allow God's word to create your agenda and viewpoint.

MUSIC

Ephesians 5:15-20

¹⁵Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore

do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I can hear a song and it changes the way I think and feel.

God knows this. He can work through songs to move us to where He is moving and working.

Paul tells Timothy to sing together.

I think music is one of those things that in a corporate setting brings us from all over the place to a place of unity. One voice.

It is beautiful to hear our voices come together and sing praises to God.

Mark Moore,

“Worship music exalts God, and we get caught in the upward draft. It lifts us to places we want to be. The heavier your baggage, the more helium of worship you need...”

SERVICE

1 Peter 4:10

¹⁰Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

How can we serve someone else?

We are never more like Christ than when we are serving someone else. Our nature is to only look out for ourselves. Jesus stood in opposition to that way of thinking.

Jesus still shows up among the disenfranchised—the orphan, the trafficked, the poor.

James 1:27

²⁷Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and

widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

When we take a stand where Jesus is, we experience solidarity with him. And this keeps us from being polluted by the world.

FELLOWSHIP

Acts 2:42

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Are you devoting yourself to fellowship?

Mark Moore says,

“As we gather to worship, pray, and proclaim God’s Word, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. We’re transformed simply by positioning ourselves amid the faithful.”

Romans 12:2

²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Don’t conform. Be transformed.

By the renewing of your mind... Make a decision.

Allow God to change you, not this world.

SCRIPTURE. MUSIC. SERVICE. FELLOWSHIP.

Don't settle for the Road to Nowhere.

SGL questions:

1. What were some things you and your family had planned for this year that weren't able to happen?
2. What are some of your actions and/ or attitude when it comes to unplanned changes?
3. What are some things you do if you want to make a change in your life (habits, diet, etc)
4. If God is the agent of change, what is the process of spiritual change for us?
5. What are some practices you have in studying/ memorizing God's Word?
6. Worship through song can be a powerful, connecting time. What are some worship songs you connect with? Why?

7. If you could serve people, what would you do?
8. How have you been able to connect with other believers? How have you connected with your neighbor?