

One Changed Man

Week One: Paul & Freedom

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“For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.”

- Romans 5:19

The question is not **“Is my life having an impact?”**...the real question is **“What kind?”**

What _____ is your life telling?

What _____ is your life having?

Do you want to make an **IMPRESSION** or an **IMPACT**?

God is changing men, redeeming men, transforming men *one at a time*. God’s man has decided to ENGAGE instead of RETREAT. STEP IN rather than PUNK OUT.....

“And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of God has been *forcefully advancing* and violent people are attacking it.” - Matthew 11:12

Through _____, Jesus Christ can _____!

***In the life of Paul we see that God’s man is:** _____.

Paul was a man zealous for the fame and worship of God. We first meet him in Acts:

“Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen. A great wave of persecution began that day.....” - Acts 8:1

“Meanwhile, Saul was *uttering threats with every breath* and was *eager to kill the Lord’s followers...*” - Acts 9:1

Paul’s life teaches us an important truth: We can be incredibly _____, and sincerely _____.

God’s man, and our entire culture is at risk. We have blurred the lines, confused the issues and made reality subjective. We must realize that there is _____ and there are _____. *Pure and simple.*

Passion and sincerity have no merit without truth. In our lives, like Paul’s, we may have to challenge beliefs that we have held for our entire lives. For Paul, Following Jesus Christ would cost him _____.

The same is true of us! Transformation so often begins in our minds, God often begins making us new by changing the way we think. Take a look at Romans 12:2 –

“Do not be *conformed to this world*, but be *transformed* by the *renewing of your mind*, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” - Romans 12:2

Following Christ would cost Paul everything...the same may be true of us. In order to _____, we may need to _____ from certain friends or even our family.

Pain is often a necessary crucible. When we have nothing, we begin to value God as we should. We begin to devour His word as our ultimate source of comfort. In this way, we can accept testing and trials:

“Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.” - James 1:2-4

Like James, a changed man must consider tough times an _____.

What impurities is the Lord burning out of your life right now?

Like Paul, it was an encounter with Christ that changed the trajectory of his life. **True life begins by _____ as He truly is.**

Paul experienced a complete transformation in his understanding of who Jesus Christ was:

- From the PROBLEM...to the SOLUTION
- From the one he pursued to DESTROY....to the one he pursued to WORSHIP
- From OUTLAW.....to EVERLASTING

What we see in the life of Paul, is often true in the life of God’s man....**The first step towards Jesus...is often a step into _____.**

“..Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel.” - Acts 9:15

We are often changed, in order to be a blessing to those God calls us to lead and to serve. The places God calls us to go are often challenging, difficult and even dangerous.. The world is dark....that is exactly why we are called the LIGHT:

Matthew 5:14 ***“You are the light of the world - like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.”***

As we go, we have the most perfect promise. The promise of God’s _____.

I can only imagine the mental attacks of the enemy on Paul, specifically with regards to his *past*. Having killed Christians, having opposed The Way, the enemy certainly had a field day with Paul’s emotions by constantly reminding him of this.....

But brothers....**A changed man refuses to let his _____ define his _____.**

*“I focus on this one thing: **forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead**, I press on to reach the end of the race....”* - Philippians 3:13

I AM NOT WHO I WAS! I AM NOT WHO I USED TO BE! I AM WHO GOD SAYS I AM!

Follow Up Questions - Pause & Pray

1. *Who* has God entrusted to me? Begin by making a list of your family and work your way out, listing people you interact with on a weekly basis.
2. In order to follow Jesus fully, we must confront our long held beliefs if they are in opposition to God’s truth. Is there any belief you are currently holding, that you know you must lay down in order to fully follow Christ?
3. “Testing” is different from temptation, simple challenges, or experiencing the effects of sin. Where, in your life, do you believe God is currently “testing” your faith? What fruit have you seen that would allow you to experience joy in the midst of this trial?
4. Where are the places in your past that the enemy most often uses to stifle your future? How can the life of Paul (overcoming past failures) motivate you towards a more bold faith in Jesus, and who you are becoming today?