



Can You See It? - Part 1

TITLE

Change Lives

WORD

John 4:34-38 “Then Jesus explained: “My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work. You know the saying, ‘Four months between planting and harvest.’ But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest. The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they

harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike! You know the saying, ‘One plants and another harvests.’ And it’s true. I sent you to harvest where you didn’t plant; others had already done the work, and now you will get to gather the harvest.”” *NLT*

John 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” *ESV*

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. *NKJV*

- God specializes in bringing change
- God is not interested in enhancing or simply upgrading your life so your life can become more comfortable and convenient
- God is not interested in adjusting your life so there is an improved version of you
- God is into complete transformation

I. Transformation in the Bible

A. Abraham & Sarah

1. Could not give birth to children
2. God changed their lives
3. They had a child
4. Maybe you are supposed to give birth to something

B. Jacob

1. Known as a trickster and a schemer
2. He was destined to be the patriarch to the 12 tribes of Israel

3. He wrestled with an angel all night long until he got his blessing.
4. Maybe you've got a label that others have put on you that you don't want to carry any longer

C. Esther

1. A poor orphaned Jewish girl
2. She becomes the queen of Persia
3. Maybe you feel abandoned, forgotten and left behind but God wants you to become a difference maker

D. Gideon

1. Grieved by insecurity and low self-esteem - he is hiding in a wine press
2. The Angel of the Lord calls him a mighty man of valor
3. Gideon defeats the median armies
4. Maybe God wants to set you free from low self-esteem and insecurity so that you can defeat the power of the enemy

E. Rahab

1. She was a prostitute
2. The destiny of her family is in her hands
3. She was mentioned later in the lineage of Jesus
4. Maybe you have a messy past God wants to use you anyway

II. Two Truths About Life Change

- A. You are never too old, never too bad, never too late, never too sick to start from scratch once again
- B. Growth is painful and change is painful but nothing is as painful as staying stuck where you don't belong

III. Two Schools of thought

- A. The Ancients believed that life change came through placing mind and reason over passion and desires – will power
- B. Modern thought says identify your passions and desires and express them so that you can be your authentic self
 1. The problem with both of them is that they are superficial because they don't address the heart
 2. Ezekiel 11:19 "And I will give them singleness of heart and put a new spirit within them. I will take away their stony, stubborn heart and give them a tender, responsive heart," *NLT*
 3. Ezekiel 36:26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." *NIV*

IV. Four Ways Jesus Changes Our Lives

A. *Jesus transforms our minds*

1. Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” *ESV*
2. “*The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.*” – *Albert Einstein*
3. When we follow Jesus, he changes the way we think
4. Perception is everything

B. Jesus transforms our desires

1. Jesus transforms our worldly desires into desires for him and his kingdom
2. Psalm 37:4 “Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” *ESV*
3. Galatians 5:24 “And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” *ESV*

C. Jesus transforms our relationships

1. Matthew 22:37-39 “Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” *NIV*
2. Jesus gives us:
 - a. Order: God first
 - b. Strategy: Love neighbor as ourselves
3. When we follow Jesus there’s less drama and a lot more grace and forgiveness

D. Jesus transforms our purpose

1. John 15:16 “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.” *NIV*
 - a. You are called to live a fruitful and productive life
2. Matthew 28:18-20 “Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”” *NIV*
3. Jesus transforms our purpose into more than we could ever dream and causes us to do things and go places we never imagined