

MSG: CHANGES
Series: BECOMING LIKE JESUS
Scripture: MATT. 3:1-12 NIV

REVIEW: THE TRAILER

1. CHECK YOUR FOUNDATION
2. CHALLENGE YOUR CONVENIENCES
3. CHASE YOUR CALLING

Matthew 3:1-12 NIV

“In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

This year our desire is simply Becoming Like Jesus. That we would Love, Live and Lead like Jesus. More Love, More Godliness, More of His Spirit, More of His Guidance, More of His Faith. More of his charity, gentleness, kindness and patience, Not in an aspirational way, one that culture tends to do. Wanting “goodness” but not Godliness” wanting “blessing” without “giving”, wanting “greatness” without “meekness”

You see we can’t only “WANNA” become Like Jesus. We must yes, make it our desire, but actually then spend the intimate time with Jesus to understand Him, to know Him deeply and more importantly, to trust Him in ways that we have not to this point in our walk. So much so, that the dominant characteristic that is fully displayed to your family, your friends, your classmates, your co-workers and your community Is truly Jesus.

The picture, character and nature of Jesus is so distinctly evident your life, That it is almost difficult to distinguish the difference, we are Truly “In Him” as Paul describes. Because God, humbled Himself, became a man, in the person of Jesus. We must also BE In Christ, and fully

discover how our BEING IN Him can move us into more sincere confidence in Him that transforms us.

This journey will be filled with excitement, triumph and victory. And simultaneously pain, suffering, challenge and failure are also part of the journey. We will discover A NEW WAY OF WALKING, A NEW REALITY BEYOND SIMPLY EXISTING but more importantly truly LOVING, LIVING and LEADING from the eternal perspective that makes Heaven SO tangible and SO real to your life and everyone you encounter, will be undeniable when they interact and relate with you—They have literally met Jesus! In the same way that Jesus ACTUALLY PHYSICALLY came to Earth. This year, so does he want us to tangible BECOME LIKE JESUS. THERE ARE CHANGES that we're in need of - Here's where we start:

1. REPENT

Matt 3:2

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Repent - to change your mind.

THIS NOT SIMPLE FEEL BAD about sin, disobeying God. It is a Action word, that acknowledges the areas in our lives that dishonor God. Jesus is here to change your mind so your ACTIONS change!

REPENTANCE GRANTS ACCESS TO HIS PRESENCE

HEAVEN IS HERE NOW - The rulership and domain of God is present at this VERY Moment!
JESUS IS HERE NOW.

AS CLOSE AS YOUR HAND IS TO YOU. *Hold up your hand*

REPENTANCE IS NOT A SANCTION, REPENTANCE IS AN INVITATION

Not demanded simply because of our sinfulness...it's an opportunity to experience the power and peace of the Kingdom of God! I

REPENTANCE MAKES NEW WHAT WAS OLD

This why John was PRESSED!

Changing our mind is an opportunity that brings us in the new thing God is doing in us and in others!

2. PREPARE

Matt 3:3

“This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.”

-referencing Isaiah 40:3

* eastern monarchs, who, whenever they entered upon an expedition, or took a journey through a desert country, sent harbingers before them, to prepare all things for their passage; and pioneers to open the passes, to level the ways, and to remove all impediments.”

*This year, as you become more like Jesus, you are literally CLEARING a path and removing the obstacles for in your own heart BUT also for people who you love to meet THE TRUE KING, JESUS!

THIS IS NOT SIMPLE ABOUT YOU BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS. THERE ARE ENTIRE companies, family legacies, and people far from God.

Where other pathways were difficult for people to experience the presence and power of God. As you Become, others will follow you!

Here’s how you prepare the way in your heart:

1. SPACE OF SOLITUDE

- 21 Days of Prayer, spending uninterrupted time with Jesus.

2. STEP OF SEPARATION

- Consecrate Yourself, YOU MUST SET YOUR SELF APART FOR GOD.

SEPARATION BRINGS REVELATION

It’s simple. The more you separate yourself the more revelation God gives you.

3. SACRIFICE OF SELF

- Fasting from food, entertainment, social, idleness

3. CONFESS

Confess- homologeo- to speak the same, to agree, together

A voice of one calling in the wilderness (desolate in Greek)

God’s desire is to address the desolate places in your life void of hope, strength, courage and faith.

To bring you into the fullness of His Presence. Saturated fully. HE’S CALLIN YOU OUT!

1. CALL OUT TO GOD

The places that are displeasing to Him.

2. CONCLUDE WHAT GOD CONCLUDES

-agree with God’s ways and not simply your own way.

3. CONFESS TO YOUR SISTER OR BROTHER

James 5:16 NIV

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.”

Confession is spiritual discipline.
Acknowledge your sin in a safe place.
Don't be a weirdo or a creep.

4. BAPTIZE

Matt 3:11 NIV

“ I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

A LIFE FULLY IMMERSSED, SURRENDERED TO THE CONTROL AND DOMINION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

WATER CLEANS YOU, BUT FIRE CHANGES YOU

WATER TEMPORARILY WASHES AWAY, BUT FIRE CHANGES THE STATE*.**

Remember, we're talking about a changed mind, that changes our being. Forming us, molding us, crafting us by the fire of the Holy Spirit to Be like Jesus.

Fire burns up everything not like God, so that what remains is useful, refined, and Holy. The process of refinement by fire is difficult because our humanity is exposed sometimes to the point of embarrassment. Not that others know, but the brutal reality that we are deeply in need of God to change a deformed, sinful existence to a God honor sweet aroma!

FIRE BAPTISM CHANGES YOU INTO THE FRAGRANCE OF WORSHIP

This change while we, painful and uncomfortable emit the fragrance of Worship pleasing to God. Right in the middle of the process **A SACRIFICE OF FRAGRANT WORSHIP...** a life wholly acceptable and pleasing to God!

So beginning today, over the next 21 days let's embrace the **CHANGES**, humbly submitting to the **CHANGES** that He will do in us.