

Sept 17th, 2023
Realized Change
Acts 4

Open with prayer

**Psalm - 51. For extra reading - This psalm speaks of how the Lord changes us and there is outflow of a changed life.*

Read for insight into the scripture

When we encounter Jesus we can't not be changed.

Now, this may be an immediate change of character, but it is also a change of trajectory in our life and often is a slow continuous transformation. We are on a journey to look like Jesus. For the people in today's scripture, they were on one trajectory then they encountered Jesus, experienced his teaching, believed in him, followed him, experienced the death and resurrection of Jesus, and received the Holy Spirit all first hand. We have much to learn from them. They were completely changed and lived out a different reality when set loose on the world. We can't not be changed by where we dwell and who/what we allow to take claim on us. If we are claiming the name and salvation of Jesus, we are now a part of this same movement they were. The movement was called **The Way**...because **they were living out The Way of Jesus**. **At the Chapel we say, "with Christ, comes change."** Salvation changed these disciples and it should be constantly changing us.

Read Acts 4:1-22

- **What stands out to you?**
- **Why do you think the people of power were astonished with the words and actions of Peter and John?**

In Vs 17-22 -

- **What were Peter and John charged to do?**
- **What was their response to the charge?**
- **What response did the people have to the healing?**
- **What do you think this situation tells us about living a life in Christ?**
- **Do you feel stuck on your journey? What steps are you taking to know Christ on a deeper level?**
- **Take a few minutes to discuss ways that you think your life has changed in recent years due to following Christ?**

When people encounter us, with all of our faults and failures, our sins and struggles, are they astonished because they recognize that we had been with Jesus? Or do they just see us as some sort of stereotype?

Practice for this week:

A good question you should think about is, if people see me now and then again years from now, am I looking more or less like Christ? Do I appear more loving, more joy filled, more peaceful, living out kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and a person of self-control...or am I becoming more hateful, spiteful, angry, anxious, dismissive, suspicious, harsh or over indulgent?

This week, take a few minutes to think about who you want to be in 5 or 10 years. What Godly rhythms in your life do you have that will facilitate you becoming this kind of person?

Prayer Request and closing Prayer

Ask if anyone has any prayers they would like to add to our prayer team, report back to Sarah. sarah@thechapelatseaside.com

Quotes from Sermon

“Modern readers might ponder their own reaction if uneducated traveling preachers of a new religious movement came into established churches and lured thousands of them away as followers of an executed criminal that they claimed to be God’s final revelation.” - a commentator

“To have saving faith is not to believe the minimum amount so God has to let you in. To have saving faith is to believe what Jesus himself believed, to see what Jesus himself saw, so that you naturally do what Jesus himself would do.” - John Ortberg,

“You can’t think your way to Christlikeness.” - James K.A. Smith

“I suppose it is tempting, if the only tool you have is a hammer, to treat everything as if it were a nail.” - Maslow

To summarize Charles Duhigg’s book, the power of habit,

“What we repeatedly do, we become.”

“A long obedience in the same direction.” - Eugene Peterson