

Jesus: The Unpredictable

So remember the story where Jesus runs into the temple and disrupts all the activity going on. Luke's account (Luke 19: 45-48) of the story goes on to say that Jesus continued teaching in the temple for a few days after that and the religious leaders were not excited. But the deal was there was nothing they could do about it. It happens to all of us who begin to follow Jesus. He comes into our lives and begins to make changes. He begins to ask us to give up some things and start doing other things. While it may not seem fair or right, we have to remember why Jesus is doing all the disrupting of our lives.

'A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.' *John 10:10 The Message*

The need for change comes with a decision to walk with Jesus. We may not realize it, but we are at times so far away from what God originally intended for us. The prophet Isaiah put it like this:

'We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;' *Isaiah 53:6 NIV*

If we are honest with ourselves, we can all see habits and tendencies that need to change. Most of us can look across our lives and see moments that we regret, comments we wish we had not made, and things we wish we had not done. We all recognize the need for change. And most would agree that change is oftentimes good for us. But the kind of change that Jesus wants to do in us produces something extremely awesome! Check out this quote from the Apostle Paul to the church in Corinth.

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

So the goal in the process is not to figure out what Jesus wants to change first, because He is extremely unpredictable. You never know what He will do next. The goal actually is to remain attentive to everything that He says. This is done through scripture reading and through prayer. Listening to messages and hanging out with other Christ-followers also helps in this process of remaining attentive. One of Jesus' most profound statements was 'Those who follow me, hear my voice.' (John 10:27). If we remain attentive to what Jesus says, He'll do the changing...from the inside out. Read one last quote from Paul.

'Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.' *Romans 12:2 The Message*

The character of Jesus often leaves us asking 'Did that just happen?' He truly is unpredictable, especially when it comes to seeing us be all that we were created to be. The question for each one of us is, will we allow Him the freedom to change us and make us new creations. If you would like to jump in on this great opportunity, pray the prayer that is below. Also if you get a chance, take a moment and read Romans 12 in its entirety. It's good stuff!

PRAYER: Hey Jesus, You are really unpredictable. I know I cannot figure you out. But I pray that you would change me. I ask that you see all that I am and make whatever changes that are needed in my life. Help me to follow you and trust you more. Thanks for accepting me and thanks for not leaving me the way I am. In Jesus Name, Amen.