

Who Am I? Metamorphosis

Review

- Talking about "Identity - Do you now who your are?"
- All characters in our own story. Also characters in God's larger story.
- All stories begin by establishing "normal" for the main character. That was last week. We are all equally born sinners and therefore separated from God. Not just what we do, what we are from which comes what we do.
- After the norm is established, the character experiences a catalyst. Something upsets the normal and changes the character forever. That is what we are going to talk about today.
- Another way to talk about this is to ask the question...

Intro

● What does it mean to be a Christian?

- Either God is real, or He isn't. Either Jesus did what He did and said what He said, or He didn't. Either the Bible, in its historical and linguistic context, is God's revealed truth and defines reality, or it isn't and it doesn't. (*Agree to believe in it while knowing full well it isn't true. Santa, Easter Bunny.*)
- If God isn't, if Jesus didn't, if the Bible isn't and doesn't, then being a Christian can mean whatever you want it to mean. Those are some pretty big ifs!
- If God is, if Jesus did, if the Bible is and does, then being a Christian means something that is unique, something imperative. It's something more than a system, it's real.
- What does it mean? What is this catalyst? What does it look like?

The Metamorphosis - transformation clip

● What we observe

- Is it something Peter did? Did the change come from him or external? Ext, he couldn't make it happen.
- The change was from the inside out, not the outside in.
- It changed the way he saw things. He was no longer just Peter Parker, he was more, he was new.

● Biblical reality

- **John 3:3-6, 16-21.** Born again, new nature, already condemned, need to be saved. Truth, love, light.
- Jesus talking to Pharisees about dirty dishes.
- **Matthew 16:24-25** deny self, die to self. **John 16:7-14**, walking with the HS.
- **Romans 6:3-5, 2 Cor. 5:17, Gal 2:20.** Death and rebirth through Jesus. **This is the beginning of what it means to be a Christian, one of Christ's.**
- **2 Cor. 3:18**, being transformed. We are, and we are being.
- Some people get this and stop here. Mostly conceptual. If it's real there should be a difference.

Discovering The Reality - the next day (clip)

- What do we observe?

- Suddenly able to do things he couldn't do before.
- Notices differences in himself.
- His new abilities get him into trouble.
- He begins to experience his world differently.
- He has strength to overcome where before he was weak.
- He finds himself set apart from others.
- Once he begins to figure out what's going on, he has freedom, he's excited, and he goes for it.

- Biblical reality

- My experiences - had the change in HS, lost all old friends, didn't walk in it until UW. God flipped switch, Bible study experiences, girls at ADPI. Why didn't I walk in this before? Never knew! Just my experience, your mileage may vary.
- **The Bible teaches us and shows us that there should be a noticeable change, noticed by us and others.** Peter, Paul, disciples in **Acts 19**. Lamp, plugged in a switched on.
- **Romans 6:6-14**
- **1 John 4:4**
- **Acts 3+**, lame man healed (transformed, walking, spectacle), arrests, prayer meeting for boldness, thankful for worthiness of persecution, joy at freedom from idols and sin throughout **Acts**.

Wrap up

- Have you experienced a transformation?
- Have you noticed a change? Praise God.
- Do you still blend in to the rest of the crowd? You are missing out on what it means to be a Christian, one of Christ's. Do something about this today!
- We are building up to something in this series. This is going somewhere. Going to address why this is so hard or not real, and what can be done about it.
- Jesus said come, ask, seek knock, He will receive you, He will answer.