

## 2-28-2024 – God Changes Everything

**Intro:** Spring is on the way. There are signs of it already.

Spring reminds us of a truth – **God changes everything.**

**Rev. 21:5** – “the One seated on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.”

### **1 - God changes nature.**

**Amos 5:8** – “He turns darkness to dawn and daylight to darkness;”

No sunset or sunrise is exactly the same.

Tide is constantly changing. Earth is constantly spinning. Change/constant.

**God’s design is for change to happen.**

- **Gen. 8:22** – “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall never cease.”

o **What is constant in life is change.**

### **2 - God changes people.**

Fishermen to disciples: Peter & Andrew; James & John

Dishonest tax collector to disciple: Matthew. 1<sup>st</sup> Gospel of N.T.

Joseph’s brothers have regret and guilt for what they did.

- **Gen. 50:18** – they “came and bowed down to the ground in front of him and said, “We are your slaves.” They are who sold him as a slave...

Jesus’ brother James - From crazy & cynical to follower & figurehead

- **John 7** - his brothers told him to go to Judea so all could see what he was doing. *“Not even his brothers believed in Him.”*

- **Mark 3:21** – His family thought *“He’s out of his mind.”*

o **God can change the people in our lives, too.** Prodigals go home.

o Wanderers settle down. Immaturity grows up.

o Addiction becomes recovery. Advocates start as addicts.

o Junkie to Judge. **Mary Beth O’Connor.** Fed Admin Law judge

### **3 - God changes situations.**

**Joseph** went from the pit to the palace. Gen. 37-40

**Peter** went from sitting in the hoosegow to walking to a house. Acts 12

**David** went from being on the run to running Israel.

**Esther** went from orphan, living with Uncle Mordecai, to Queen.

**Ruth** went from mourning to dancing. She chose love. Not bitter. “Mara”

- God changed her situation: from Moab to Bethlehem. Marries **Boaz.**

- God makes unpassable seas become hallways of water – a passageway to Promised land . . . **He can change your situation!**
- God makes crooked placed straight; He levels mountains & breaks iron bars. . . **Nothing is too hard.**
- **Your situation is not permanent.** Change is coming.
  - Bad to Good... Good to Better. But what if the change seems awful?
  - **8:28 promise** – “God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God”
    - Joseph could go from family – to a pit – to prison – palace.
    - Why David lived in the palace – on the run – back to palace.
      - **God Changes Everything ... & will ultimately be for good.**
  - **Dan. 2:21** – “He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others.”
    - When it’s your time . . . in God’s perfectly ordered time . . . He will raise you up.
  - **1 Peter 5:6** – “Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.”

#### 4 - God changes us.

We pray for God to change circumstances, others ... He changes US.

- “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.” Amplified: We are “reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life].”

Lose the anger, like **John**. Stop being a deceiver, like **Jacob**.

No longer tormented by 7 demons, **Mary Magdalene**

No longer blind or lame. Once was lost, now am found.

- Sometimes we repeat the same problems ... a lesson to learn.
- We become more patient, gentle, merciful, kind ... like the Father.
  - We can change b/c Holy Spirit is at work in us.
  - Saul, anointed by Samuel – “the Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you . . . and you will be transformed into a different person.” **1 Sam 10:6**
    - **We are being changed.** **Spring** reminds us of that truth. Blooming is happening.

Song of the week: **“CHANGED”** By Hannah Kerr