

### **Scripture Reading:**

God is not man, that he should lie,  
or a son of man, that he should change his mind.

Has he said, and will he not do it?

Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

**Numbers 23:19**

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

**1 John 3:2-3**

**Sermon Title:** Become Like Jesus

**Be with Jesus**

**Become like Jesus**

**Change the world**

**Becoming like Jesus is a work of grace**

**Becoming like Jesus is accomplished & expressed through the everyday responses of God's people**

**Becoming like Jesus embodies intentional practices that help God's people put on the future**

**Becoming like Jesus is the means & the product of God fulfilling His promises**

<sup>16</sup>But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup>And we all, with unveiled face, **beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image** from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18

“are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

**The essence of becoming like Jesus entails an essential change. It's progression towards permanence**

So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27

transformed into **the same image** from one degree of glory to another

**Living with/for sin & self with ‘Jesus moments’**

**Living with/for Jesus with ‘sinful moments’**

**Becoming like Jesus is **the Spirit’s work** to complete**

Now the Lord is *the Spirit*, and where *the Spirit of the Lord* is, there is freedom

For this comes from *the Lord who is the Spirit*.

And I am sure of this, that *he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion* at the day of Jesus Christ

Philippians 1:6

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord

**The Spirit works **in partnership** with God’s people**

On the glorious splendor of your majesty,

and on your wondrous works, *I will meditate*.

Psalm 145:5

**Protect **the Awe****

*“The low view of God entertained almost universally among Christians is the cause of a hundred lesser evils everywhere among us... **With our loss of the sense of majesty** has come the further **loss of religious awe** and consciousness of the divine **Presence**... What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man’s spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God. Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God. For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but **what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like**. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God.”*

-A.W. Tozer. Knowledge of the Holy

**Practice **the future****

But *put on* the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Romans 13:14

and to *put on* the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:24

**Put on** then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,  
Colossians 3:12

**God consistently calls His people to live like who they are**

Therefore **be imitators** of God, as beloved children.<sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.  
Ephesians 5:1-2

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> **And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.**  
1 John 3:2-3

**Never underestimate how often our affection follows obedience**

**Never underestimate how often what might feel forced and inauthentic at first becomes natural & true with practice**

**Story:**

- This practice involves looking at the stories that have & are currently shaping us
- This practice involves looking at and leaning into the stories God tells about himself, us, others, the world around us
- This practice involves looking at and leaning the gospel story, asking questions that involve making sense of our lives, our world, our past, our present, and our future

**We're after seeing with God's eyes**

**We're after a better starting point for how we make sense of life**

**Eating & Drinking:**

- This practice involves adding intentionality to what we already do, eat and drink
- This practice involves cultivating a culture of hospitality, humility, and welcoming through what we already do, eat and drink
- This practice involves creating opportunities for life change through what we already do, eat and drink

**We're after increasing intimacy & intentionality**

*"Drinks are for strangers, acquaintances, workmen, and family. Meals are for family, close friends, honored guests. The grand operator of the system is the line between intimacy and distance. Those we know at meals we also know at drinks. The meal expresses close friendship. Those we only know at drinks we know less intimately. So long as this boundary matters to us...the boundary between drinks and meals has meaning..."*

Mary Douglas-Deciphering a Meal.

**Disciple & Mentor:**

- This practice involves being a lifelong learner and a willing servant*
- This practice involves pouring out your life for the sake of another*
- This practice involves Relational commitments with clear expectations, responsibilities, rhythms, and seasons*

**We're after more people **taking ownership** for theirs and others **growth****

**Silence & Solitude:**

- This practice involves seeking through withdrawal*
- This practice involves quiet prayer*

**A cluttered soul goes hand and hand with a cluttered life**

**We're after **decluttering for deeper connection** with God**