

“The Perfect Man”

Summary

This powerful message invites us into a profound question that echoes through eternity: 'What manner of man is this?' Drawing from Mark 4, we encounter Jesus calming a storm while His disciples panic in their boat, leading them to marvel at His authority over creation itself. The core revelation here is transformative—every time we catch a genuine glimpse of Jesus as He truly is, something shifts within us. According to 1 John 3:2, we become like Him because we see Him as He is. This isn't just inspirational poetry; it's the divine mechanism for our transformation. The message challenges our resistance to the idea of perfection, asking why we recoil when told we can be perfect like Christ. Romans 8:28-29 reveals that everything in our lives—literally everything—is working together to conform us into the image of the Son. The pressures we face aren't random; they're divine shaping tools. Like a cartoon character breaking through a wall in the shape of their silhouette, we can only break through our circumstances when we're shaped like Jesus. The invitation is clear: surrender to the molding process, allow the Holy Spirit to reveal Christ to us, and watch as we're progressively transformed from glory to glory into the perfect image God intended from the beginning.

Main Points – The Perfect Man

Conformed to the Image of the Perfect Man

Sermon Summary: This sermon continues a series titled "What Manner of Man Is This?" focusing on Jesus as the perfect man and God's purpose to conform believers into His image. Pastor Rob emphasizes that all circumstances in life are working together to shape Christians into Christ's likeness, requiring surrender and trust in God's transforming process. The message challenges the fear many have about the possibility of perfection, explaining that just as sin entered through Adam, righteousness and sinlessness can be restored through Christ. The sermon calls us to gaze upon Jesus, allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal Him more fully, which naturally produces transformation. The ultimate goal is not merely survival but becoming triumphant sons and daughters who reflect Christ's character, living above defeat and dysfunction.

Key Points:

- The Holy Spirit's primary function is to reveal Jesus, and every time we see Him as He truly is, we are changed into His image (1 John 3:2)
- All things work together for good specifically to conform us into the image of Christ, not just to make us comfortable (Romans 8:28-29)

- Jesus is the "key" that fits through every obstacle when we allow Him to shape us rather than resisting God's molding process
- Perfection is not an impossible standard but God's original intent, as Adam and Eve were sinless before the fall
- The same principle that draws people toward sin (temptation, desire, conception, action) also works in reverse for righteousness
- Jesus came to take away sin completely, not just cover it, restoring us to sinless living
- Transformation requires surrender in the moment of pressure, submitting to God and resisting the devil
- We are being conformed into kings and lords under the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, not merely followers wearing Christian t-shirts
- The process begins with being born again and continues through dependence on Christ, never taking credit for what we become

Scripture Reference:

- Mark 4:35-41 (Jesus calming the storm)
- 1 John 3:2 (We shall be like Him when we see Him as He is)
- Romans 8:28-29 (All things work together for good; predestined to be conformed to His image)
- John 10:10 (The thief comes to steal, kill, destroy; Jesus came to give abundant life)
- James 1:14-15 (Every man is tempted when drawn away by his own lust)

Small Group Study Guide – The Perfect Man

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when you witnessed something that made you ask, "How did that happen?" or left you in awe.

Key Scripture References

- Mark 4:35-41 (Jesus calms the storm)
 - Romans 8:28-29 (All things work together for good)
 - 1 John 3:2 (We shall be like Him)
 - John 10:10 (Life abundant)
-

Main Takeaways

1. **Jesus is the Perfect Man** - He never sinned, never made mistakes, and never spoke a wrong word. He is the model for what God intends for humanity.
 2. **We Are Being Conformed to His Image** - Everything in life is designed to shape us into the likeness of Christ. Trials and difficulties are part of God's process of transformation.
 3. **Transformation Requires Surrender** - Like clay in a potter's hands, we must be moldable and willing to yield to God's shaping work in our lives.
 4. **The Power of Beholding Jesus** - Every time we truly see Jesus as He is, something changes in us. We become more like what we behold.
-

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. Pastor Rob used the illustration of Yosemite Sam breaking through a wall in the shape of his own image. How does this picture help you understand the process of being conformed to Christ's image?
2. Read Romans 8:28-29 together. How does verse 29 give context to the promise in verse 28? What is the "good" that God is working toward in our lives?

3. Why do you think many Christians resist the idea that they can become "perfect" or sinless? What fears or misunderstandings might be behind this resistance?

Personal Reflection

4. The sermon stated that "God is not disinterested in you or your situation." When have you felt like Jesus was "asleep in the boat" while your life was in turmoil? Looking back, how was God working even then?
5. What "wall" or obstacle are you currently facing? How might God be using this pressure to shape you into Christ's image rather than just trying to remove the obstacle?
6. Pastor Rob said, "Every time we get a glimpse of Jesus as He really is, there's something that changes in us." When was the last time you had a fresh revelation of who Jesus is? What changed in you?

Going Deeper

7. James 1:14-15 describes how lust conceives and brings forth sin and death. Pastor Rob flipped this to show how godly desire can conceive and bring forth righteousness and life. Discuss this parallel. How have you experienced both progressions in your own life?
8. Read 1 John 3:2 again. What does it mean practically that "when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is"? How can we position ourselves to "see Him" more clearly now?
9. The sermon emphasized that Jesus came "that you might have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). How does your current life reflect this abundance? Where do you need breakthrough?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Daily Beholding

- Set aside 10-15 minutes each day specifically to "behold" Jesus through Scripture, worship, or contemplative prayer
- Journal about one aspect of Jesus' character you discover each day
- Note any changes you observe in your thoughts, attitudes, or actions

Option 2: Surrender Practice

- Identify one area where you're currently experiencing "pressure" or difficulty
- Instead of fighting against it or asking God to remove it, pray daily: "God, use this to conform me to the image of Jesus. Make me moldable."
- Pay attention to what God might be trying to shape in you through this situation

Option 3: Purpose Alignment

- Spend time this week asking God: "What was Your plan from the beginning concerning my life?"
- Write down any impressions, scriptures, or confirmations you receive
- Evaluate one current pursuit or goal: Is this about my purpose or God's purpose for me?

Group Accountability

- Share which option you chose and why
- Exchange contact information to check in with at least one other group member during the week

Prayer Focus

Pray together for:

- Fresh revelation of who Jesus really is
- Soft, moldable hearts that yield to God's shaping work
- Courage to believe God's original intent for our lives
- Those who need to be born again or filled with the Holy Spirit
- Specific situations group members are facing where they need to see God's purpose

Closing Prayer Prompt: "Holy Spirit, You are here to reveal Jesus to us. Help us this week to see Him more clearly as the Perfect Man. Where we are stuck, show us how to surrender. Where we are discouraged, remind us that all things are working together to conform us to His image. Give us grace to become what we behold. In Jesus' name, Amen."

For Next Week

- Read and meditate on 1 John 3:2-3
- Come prepared to share one way you saw Jesus more clearly this week
- Note: The following Sunday will feature guest speakers Siggy and David Oblander

Discussion Questions – The Perfect Man

In what ways have you experienced God allowing your 'boat to fill up' while seemingly asleep, and how did that situation ultimately reveal more of who Jesus is to you?

Why do you think humans resist the idea of becoming perfect when perfection is God's stated intention for conforming us into Christ's image?

How does understanding that 'all things work together for good' specifically means conforming us to Christ's image change the way you view current difficulties in your life?

What does it mean practically that Jesus is 'the key that fits a hole in every door of your life,' and where do you need to surrender to let Him shape you right now?

Pastor Rob suggests that God uses the same 'wiring' of desire that the enemy exploits—how have you experienced godly desire drawing you toward transformation versus carnal desire drawing you toward sin?

If Jesus was perfect and we are being conformed into His image, what specific areas of recurring sin or dysfunction in your life might God be actively working to remove rather than just manage?

How does viewing yourself as 'the called according to His purpose' rather than someone trying to figure out what you want to do with your life shift your approach to decision-making?

In what ways does the fear of not measuring up prevent you from embracing the biblical truth that you can walk in sinless maturity through Christ?

The sermon emphasizes that the Holy Spirit's primary function is to reveal Jesus—when was the last time you intentionally asked the Spirit to show you more of who Jesus really is?

What would change in your daily life if you truly believed that every circumstance, even frustrating ones like being cut off in traffic, is designed to make you more like Christ?

Scriptures – The Perfect Man

Directly Referenced or Quoted:

1. Mark 4:35-41 - Jesus calming the storm; disciples asking "What manner of man is this?"
2. Mark 4:39 - "Peace be still" - Jesus rebuking the wind and sea
3. 1 John 3:2 - "When he appears, we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is"
4. Romans 8:28 - "All things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to his purpose"
5. Romans 8:29 - "Predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son"
6. Romans 8:31 - "If God is for us, who can be against us?"
7. Romans 8:35-37 - "What can separate us from the love of God... more than conquerors"
8. James 4:7 - "Submit yourself to God. Resist the devil"
9. John 1:29 - "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"
10. James 1:14-15 - "Every man is tempted when he's drawn away of his own lust and enticed. When lust has conceived, it brings forth sin. And sin, when it's finished, brings forth death"
11. John 10:10 - "The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But I have come that you might have life and life abundant"
12. Luke 22:15 - "With great desire I have desired to eat this Passover meal with you"
13. 2 Corinthians 10:5 - (Alluded to) - Bringing thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ
14. John 3:3 - (Alluded to) - "Except you're born again, you can't even see the kingdom of God"

Devotional – The Perfect Man

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: What Manner of Man Is This?

Reading: Mark 4:35-41

Devotional: The disciples' question echoes through eternity: "What manner of man is this?" When Jesus calmed the storm, they encountered someone beyond their comprehension. Like them, we often panic in life's storms while Jesus seems asleep. Yet He's never disinterested in our struggles. Today, ask yourself: Am I truly seeing Jesus as He is? Every glimpse of His true nature has power to transform us. The disciples moved from terror to awe in moments. Your breakthrough may be one revelation away. Don't settle for secondhand knowledge of Christ. Press in to know Him personally. When you truly see Him—His power, His peace, His perfection—something shifts inside you. That's not religious theory; it's transformational reality.

Day 2: Loved Beyond Measure

Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

Devotional: No one will ever love you as deeply as Jesus loves you. This isn't sentimental rhetoric—it's foundational truth. People have ups and downs, but God's love never fails. You can place the entire weight of your soul on Him. When life disappoints and people let you down, Jesus remains constant. His love is the one unchanging reality in a shifting world. Today, stop searching for validation in human approval. The Creator of the universe delights in you. But here's the mystery: we are God's children now, yet what we will be hasn't fully appeared. When we see Him as He is, we'll be like Him. This promise should ignite hope, not fear. Perfect love casts out fear. Let His love anchor you today.

Day 3: All Things Working Together

Reading: Romans 8:28-29

Devotional: Everything—literally everything—is working together for your good if you love God and are called according to His purpose. That includes the frustrating, painful, confusing circumstances you're facing right now. But notice the purpose: conforming you to Christ's image. God isn't randomly allowing hardship; He's sculpting you. Like clay in a potter's hands, you must remain soft and moldable. Resistance creates suffering; surrender creates breakthrough. The pressure you feel is God's hand shaping you into Jesus' likeness. Every situation has a "hole" through it shaped like Christ. When you yield

and let Him conform you to that image, you pass through. Stop fighting the process. Ask God today: "What are You trying to change in me through this?" Your transformation is the pathway to your breakthrough.

Day 4: The Perfect Man

Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16; John 10:10

Devotional: Jesus was, is, and forever will be perfect—completely sinless, never making a mistake or speaking a wrong word. This matters because you're being conformed to His image. Before sin entered through Adam, humanity was sinless. Jesus came to restore that original design. He didn't come to help you manage sin better; He came to remove it entirely. The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy, but Jesus came to give abundant life. That abundance isn't just "getting by"—it's triumph, victory, and transformation. You weren't designed to limp through life tormented by sin, sickness, and dysfunction. Stop accepting defeat as normal Christianity. Jesus, the perfect man, is your model and your power source. As you behold Him, you're changed into the same image. Don't fear perfection; embrace the process.

Day 5: Drawn by Divine Desire

Reading: James 1:13-18; Luke 22:14-15

Devotional: Just as temptation draws us toward sin, God draws us toward righteousness. Jesus said, "With great desire I have desired..." using the same Greek word often translated as "lust." God has holy passion for you and awakens godly desire within you. When worldly lust conceives, it brings forth sin and death. But when godly desire conceives, it brings forth righteousness and life. You're wired to be drawn, to desire, to move toward something. The question is: what? God is dangling His purposes before you, awakening your original design. Between desire and action lies conception—the moment you choose. Will you partner with God's purposes or resist them? Every time you yield to His drawing, conception occurs, bringing forth life. You're not the firstborn; Jesus is. But you're being conformed to His image. Surrender to the process today. Let holy desire conceive in your spirit.

As you complete this reading plan, remember: transformation isn't about trying harder—it's about surrendering deeper. Keep your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of your faith.