

“Alternative Culture” : Telling Another Story of Transformation | Wk 4

1/24/2021 | @ASeattleChurch

“The Way” by [Tyler Gorsline](#)

SERMON NOTES:

Pastor Tyler Recapped our Vision/Mission Series Journey thus far:

- Week 1: Alternative Story (3rd Culture Kids)
- Week 2: Creative Minorities (Vision: “Joining God’s Transformation of All Things”)
- Week 3: Making Disciples by Living... (Mission: Transformational Discipleship)

For Week 4, we pivoted to our **4 Circles of Transformation at ASC**. They represent:

- Three people, gathered around Jesus
- Our process/what transforms a person holistically:
 - **ASC Circle 2: Truth** (being shaped by God’s word): 1/31/21
 - **ASC Circle 3: Life** (practicing what Jesus taught): 2/7/21
 - **ASC Circle 4: Together** (doing so in community/on mission with others): 2/14/21

Today’s focus is **ASC Circle 1**: the “**Way**” of Jesus:

- Tyler asked: Are you practicing the presence of God whenever/wherever you are?
- How often do we live with the Holy Spirit vs. apart from the Holy Spirit?
- As a church we want to live from the Spirit of God as our greatest intimacy
- To find our revelation, strength, grace, and power from closeness with God
- To realize that “apart from God we can do nothing”
- To live Spirit-filled at the deepest and most impactful levels in every part of our lives

Ultimately, Living Jesus’ Way in the Spirit makes:

- **Awakened** (Ezekiel 37: 1-10, 11-14) by the Spirit’s “breath” (Hebrew: Ruach) in us
 - To let God breathe back life into the dry, dead bones of our lives
 - For us to prophecy/speak in Spirit to the dead spaces as God commands
 - Ultimately, God will settle us on the inside, in our world, and bring new life
- **Strengthened to Dwell Fully** (Ephesians 3:14-19)
 - Christ wants to strengthen you, that Christ and His love would dwell richly in us
 - For you to experience the riches of God’s glory in our inner beings,
 - That we wouldn't settle for less than the “life to the full” (John 10) God is offering
- with **Power & Vision** (Acts 2:15-18, from Joel 2:28)
 - God has inaugurated a new kingdom on earth
 - In the Spirit being “poured out on all flesh,” we all have God in us
 - God has not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-control" (2 Tim 1:7)

Will you step into the invitation to be "salt and light" from being intimate and empowered by the Holy Spirit?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS (Small Group & Personal):

WARM-UP: “Together” *(use one or none)*

1. If you could do anything on a snow day what would it be?
2. What is a favorite snack?

WORD: “Truth”

Leader: Questions below should allow for quick responses, evident by close reading of the text. Choose to use some or all of them (pending pace), as reading of the passage(s) will answer them as well.

- **Sermon Recap (if helpful):** Tyler looked at how Jesus is inviting us to be filled with the Spirit through intimacy with God. To realize that “apart from God we can do nothing” (John 15:5). “We are the branches, and Christ is the vine” (John 15:1-18). We explored how we often live our life on empty and leads us to run out of gas. This leaves us unable to give any life to others. Our dry bones are in need of resurrection, a fresh breath and fresh wind from the Spirit (the *Ruach* in Hebrew). We looked closely at how Ezekiel prophesied a vision God gave him of a valley of scattered and dry bones. Israel was a people in exile much like we are scattered everywhere spiritually and practically in a world that doesn’t live for or love God. Yet, God wants to sew us back together, and awaken us. In so doing we would be people who speak life and truth. Next, God wants to “strengthen us” in our innermost beings. To do so by filling us completely. Ephesians 3 is a prayer that proclaims Paul’s desire to see a Spirit-filled church. Finally, we examined how this will lead us to be people of vision and power. How people across gender, socio-economic status, and human freedom will all be able to have visions of God’s kingdom coming. How our oneness with the Holy Spirit through practicing the presence of God will propel us to be powerful witnesses to a world looking for new life.

Read Ezekiel 37:1-14, Ephesians 3:14-19, OR Acts 2:15-18 out loud (as a group) and work through SOAP. together.

Introduce or refresh SOAP to your group, then read the text and lead them through.

S- Scripture: Read the text

O- Observations: What stood out, what makes you curious, what questions do you have

A- Application: How does it or a part of this scripture speak to your life? What are the implications? Where do I relate? Where do I find myself? What is convicting?

P- Prayer: Pray the text in your own words, pray about what resonated with you, pray regarding your application...

SUPPLEMENTARY STUDY MATERIAL

1. Read Acts 4:23-31. Ask what distinguishes the believers from your own experience. How do they face with courage the real and deathly opposition as a minority group whose savior has ascended to heaven? What does verse 31 tell you about the answer to their prayers? About what God wants to do in us. Where are you not “boldly” sharing your faith by the power of the Spirit at work within you? Where are you avoiding intimacy with the Holy Spirit because you are apathetically dry, scattered, or afraid? How does this passage invite you to live more intimately with God?

APPLICATION: “Life”:

How does it or a part of this scripture speak to your life? What are the implications? Where do I relate? Where do I find myself? What is convicting? Where do I want to grow?

PRAYER “Way” (options of how to pray in your group)

1. Pray Ephesians 3:14-19 as a group. Have each person read a verse and pray it in their own words.
2. Do you have any other specific prayer requests?

COMMUNION “Together”

Lead your group in communion in a way that feels right.

- If needed, 1 Corinthians 11:23-27
 - **23** ...that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **25** In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS at ASC:

1. **Awesome:** ASC has begun giving away 10% of all donations we receive to help support church-planting, biblical justice, and other non-profits serving our city & world!
2. **Celebration!.** Due to the generosity of friends outside of our church, and your donations of one-time, recurring, appreciated stock, business matching, and recurring gifts, we were able to raise \$120K of year-end giving.
3. **Invite a friend and join us online:**
 - a. Jan 31: We continue in our new Series: Alternative Culture
4. **All-Church Prayer Calls:**
 - a. Wednesday's from 1230-1pm each week. 1-253-215-8782, 86546382360#
 - b. Friday Mornings from 6:30am-7am 1-253-215-8782, 86546382360#
5. **Worship and Prayer Night:** Starting February 3rd we will be having a monthly Worship and Prayer night on the first Wednesday of every month. Register on Planning Center <https://aseattlechurch.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/703748>
6. **Get Involved:** If you are interested in serving at church, we have several opportunities for you to do so.
 - a. Hospitality: Help serve our production team when they record on Sundays
 - b. Media: Are you a photographer, a writer, editor or graphic designer, sound engineer, we have an opportunity for you to volunteer your gifts and talents. Email info@aseattlechurch.com and Amanda will connect you with the right ministry leader.
7. **Share testimony** of how God is moving in your life/your group in this season? **HERE**
8. How can we **come alongside you** in more specific ways as a church? **Let us know.**
9. Have you been **baptized?** If that is your next step in repentance and faith, **let us know.**