

## THINK JESUS

Sunday, July 23, 2023

### THINK JESUS: INTRODUCTION

1. When it comes to change in each of our lives, there are two primary individuals who are involved in the process of change.
  - a. The first is GOD! God is fully invested – sold out – to this process of change in your life and mine.

### **Romans 8:29a NKJV**

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son...

1. God's will for you isn't complicated: Become a little more like Jesus every day!
  - a. Through the Holy Spirit within you, God's is working 24/7, every moment of every day, helping you become more like His Son.
- b. The second most important individual involved in the process of change in your life is: YOU!
  1. It's a partnership between God and you, that is empowering change in your life. God is the Senior Partner. You're the junior.
  2. If you'll do your SMALL part, God will do His BIG part. If you'll do what you CAN, God will do what you CAN'T.

### ROMANS 12:2

### **Romans 12:2 NLT**

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

1. This verse speaks about change, and also about the partnership of God and you.
  - a. "...let God transform you into a new person..."
    1. Who is transforming/changing you into a new person? God!

2. Who has to let it happen? You!

2. The word “transform” means to change or transfigure. The Greek word is “metamorphoo”, which we get the word “metamorphoses” from (caterpillar to butterfly).
  - a. In Matthew and Mark, Jesus was on a mountain and “transfigured” before Peter, James, and John. It’s the same word translated as “transform” here in Romans 12:2.
  - b. This process of transformation God wants to work in your life isn’t about some small, miniscule, hardly noticeable change.
    1. God’s working in you to bring change that is very noticeable, miraculous, humanly impossible. That’s the eventual outcome.
3. If you want to change from who you are today to someone who’s never before existed, God is ready to work in you to make that happen.
  - a. On the other hand, if you want to stay exactly like you are now, you have that choice. In His goodness, God allows you and me to live the life we choose to live.

### **IT’S A FIGHT**

1. Every day that you choose to change your thoughts, you’re also choosing difficulty, struggle, a fight. Where is this fight taking place?

### **2 Corinthians 10:3-5 ESV**

<sup>3</sup>For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. <sup>5</sup>We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...

2. So much of the “spiritual warfare” we fight in life is won or lost in our thinking. That fight is: will I listen to/believe what God says, or listen to/believe all the other voices around me.

### **Romans 8:5-6 NKJV**

<sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

3. “What I think isn’t that important to my spiritual life. I just want to deal with spiritual things.”
  - a. Some people seem to think that to be spiritual, they have to turn off their brain.
  - b. It’s not a matter of turning off your brain; it’s a matter of engaging your brain/thoughts with God, the Bible, things of God.

### **INFLUENCES THAT FIGHT AGAINST CHANGE (CHANGE FIGHTERS)**

#### **CHANGE FIGHTER #1: YOUR BRAIN**

**Your current thoughts will battle any new thoughts you attempt to bring in**

1. Changing your thinking – renewing the mind – is challenging because what’s already in your mind will fight against anything new trying to get in that doesn’t agree with what’s already there.
  - a. Certain mindsets – ways of thinking – have made their home in your brain. They’ve taken up residence in your head. When you try to put some new thoughts in there – try to move someone else in – the current residents aren’t going to like it.

#### **CHANGE FIGHTER #2: CULTURE/SOCIETY**

**The culture/society around you does not want you to change**

#### **Romans 12:2a NLT**

Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world...

1. Most translations of this say: “Do not be conformed to this world...” The word “conform” is a word that has a singular meaning. It means to be just like something else. In Romans 12:2 God says, “Don’t do that!”
2. The message of our culture is: “If you get out of that box – if you appear different than what we say you should be – we’re going to cancel you! Do you want that? You just stay in your box, stay quiet, stay the same.”
  - a. God is saying: “Kick out the walls on that box! Jump out of that box! Be who I created you to be!”
3. There is only one opinion that is to matter to us, only one system we want to please: God and God’s kingdom.

## **1 Thessalonians 2:4 NLT**

For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts.

### **CHANGE FIGHTER #3: OTHER PEOPLE**

**Relatives, friends, and others may try to hinder you from taking steps toward change**

1. Your relatives, friends, and others around you are not necessarily ungodly, but the influence they have on you may be ungodly and fighting against you changing your thinking.
  - a. This is a tough one, because you could hear this as: quit caring about these people, quit loving them. I'm not saying that. I AM SAYING: you may need to (for a time, maybe a loooong time) put some distance between yourself and people you're used to being around.

## **Mark 3:31-34 NLT**

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him. They stood outside and sent word for him to come out and talk with them. <sup>32</sup> There was a crowd sitting around Jesus, and someone said, "Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you." <sup>33</sup> Jesus replied, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" <sup>34</sup> Then he looked at those around him and said, "Look, these are my mother and brothers. <sup>35</sup> Anyone who does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

2. Jesus made God's people, and God's work in His life, more important than His own family. (Did He ever go out to them? It doesn't appear He did.)

**A change in your mind today,  
can bring a change to your heart tomorrow,  
which can lead to a change in your life forever.**

## **Philippians 1:6 NLT**

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

1. Will you change one thought this week? Just one thought.
  - a. Replace one thought of fear with a thought of confidence, doubt with faith, anger with patience, anxiety with peace, defeat with victory, "nobody cares" with "the God of the universe gave up everything to show His love for me."