

EXPLAINING JESUS, EXPERIENCING CHRIST | WEEK #04

Jesus: A Voice of Change | March 26th

WHAT'S THE ISSUE ANYWAY?

Failing to change often leads to _____.

Organizations and individuals can decide what _____.

THE TENSION

There are _____ voices. There are _____ voices. It's hard to know _____ voice to listen to.

Not all wise voices of change are _____.

It may be hard for an egg to turn into a bird: it would be a jolly sight harder for a bird to learn to fly while remaining an egg. We are like eggs at present. And you cannot go on indefinitely being just an ordinary, decent egg. We must be hatched or go bad.
-C.S. Lewis

WHAT DID JESUS SAY ABOUT CHANGE?

Our Anchor Verse: Mark 8:29 "But who do you say that I am?"

The historical Jesus was put into the category of leaders called _____. A prophet is a person _____ by God to _____ for God.

Only about ____% of what the biblical prophets spoke about predicted the future and about ____% was messianic.

The purpose of a prophet was not to _____ the future but to _____ it.

IF JESUS WAS A PROPHETIC VOICE OF CHANGE... WHAT DID HE COME TO CHANGE?

1. Their _____ and _____ of the love of God. (Mark 12:29-34)

You cannot separate loving God from loving _____.

If we love God we will love those whom _____. It's impossible to love God and not love our neighbor because we become _____ what we most love.

We are what _____.

The Change: To see that our love for God is not primarily expressed in a _____ but rather in service to our _____.

2. Bring all people _____ not leave them in their _____.

Jesus violated existing _____ categories and _____ rules.
In any kind of us/them, insider/outsider comparison comes the temptation of
_____. It's _____ instead of
_____ thinking.

The Change: Become collaborators instead of competitors. See those who we disagree with
as _____ and not _____—as neighbors not “others.”

If we _____ those who _____ exclusion, then we're not loving our neighbors
that God loves.

3. The way they _____ their Bible.

Jesus' nature is _____ like God. God's nature is _____ like Jesus.
(John 14:9, Col 1:15, 19, Heb 1:3)

The Change: We need to interpret this book through _____ and _____ of Jesus,
not the other way around.

4. Increase the level of _____ in the world. (John 15:11, 17:13)

The Change: _____ more. _____ more. Try not to take _____
so seriously.

WHAT IS JESUS INVITING US INTO TODAY?

1. Learn to interpret the Bible through the lens of Jesus.
2. Read *A More Christlike God, A More Beautiful Gospel* by Bradley Jersak.
3. Initiate a conversation with someone who appears excluded.
4. Play and laugh with a kid this week.

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

1. On a scale of 1-10 (1 = resistant, 10 = fully welcoming) how do you handle change? Tell about a time in your life when you ignored a wise voice in your life (and the result of that) or a time when you followed a wise voice in your life (and the result of that)?
2. If you grew up in or around a church, what were you taught about prophets or prophecy?
3. The historical Jesus came to bring change. Besides the 4 changes from the talk, what else did Jesus come to change and why did he want to change those things?
4. Which one of the 4 changes from the talk do you find the most challenging and why?
5. What is one change that you need to make in your life? What is difficult about making that change? What is compelling about making that change?
6. What is something you've been taught about the nature of God that you find difficult to reconcile with the character and nature of Jesus?
7. What have you done (in the past week or two) that has increased the level of joy in your life? If you wanted to laugh more, what would you do to accomplish that?