

Directions

Part 2 – Transformed is Conformed

Romans 8.28-30

Review: Commit Daily to Seek Him

Misconception: God's will is linear

- Surely an all-knowing, all-powerful God would have a single path for me, right?
 - Can leave us paralyzed by fear if we “miss” it
 - Can leave us justifying sin if we “think” we know where it is
 - For sure, some are easier paths than others
 - But our choices are real, consequential, and matter
- The primary destination is not a *where* but a *who*
 - Better than asking the “why” question is asking the “what” question: what is God doing?
 - Answer: He’s conforming you to the image of His Son
 - What parts of me? Every part of you
 - You can be religiously obedient and never come close to His will

God's Will: Be like Jesus

- This is the essence of transformation – we are pushed, pulled, and pressed until we look like Jesus
 - This is God’s will for you and your life – to become like Jesus
 - Doesn’t say anything about relationships or jobs or marriage – because Jesus would *know* what to do
 - We think, act, believe, talk, serve, care, feel, pray, relate, see, and hear like Jesus
 - An intimacy in relationship with Him that is reflected in the way we walk with Him – and this is VERY practical
- Far more than where you’re going or what you’re doing, God is interested in who you’re becoming
 - Jim Collins: It’s never wise to decide where you’re going before deciding who you’re going to be
- There’s a certainty factor – He’s not going to fail in this project
 - Gives you the freedom to live in every moment knowing this is what God is doing and then gives space for 8.28 to make sense

What does this look like? (Acts 16)

Transformed people live in a different rhythm (v.13, 16)

Transformed people do justice in the world (v.17-18)

Transformed people encounter trouble in the world (v.19-24)

Transformed people praise God despite circumstances (v.25)

- Honesty doesn't trouble Him (nor does doubt)

Transformed people carry an eternal perspective (v.27-28)

Transformed people engage in selfless ministry (v.29-32)

Questions for Discussion:

1. When was a time when you thought you knew God's will but were wrong (or decided to go your own way)? How did the story end? What (if anything) did you learn along the way? Looking back, what did you learn that you can articulate today that you couldn't then?
2. Throughout the sermon, we argued that the primary concern of God is not the *where* or *what* of God's will but *who* you are going to become. Read Romans 12.1-2 and Colossians 3.1-4. Where do you see that same truth in those texts? How do those texts picture this truth? What is our responsibility in those texts?
3. Transformed people know how to live in God's will because they are like Jesus. Who is the godliest person you know? What is his / her level of anxiety about decisions they have to make? How is their godliness reflected in their decision making process?
4. In the portion of the sermon from Acts 16, we argued that transformed people live in a different rhythm. What kinds of pressures does culture apply to you to live in its rhythm? What do you do to combat it? How is living with a sense of Sabbath counter-cultural? How do you / your family do at living like that?
5. Doing justice in the world and encountering trouble often go hand in hand, as they did for Paul and Silas (v.17-24). Why do you think this is the case? How have you seen it in your life? In your church experience? In others?
6. What song would you be most likely to sing at midnight in a jail like Paul and Silas (v.25)? Why that one?
7. Paul and Silas cared more about the soul of the jailer than their own pain or their rights as Roman citizens. How does that instruct us in our culture? Where do you need to apply that this week?