Changing Yourself

Mark Roberts · Ezekiel 18:30–32 · Series: **Meeting with Mark Roberts**

INTRODUCTION

- Repent and turn away from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin.
- I'm talking about being able to change yourself, particularly as it pertains to spiritual matters, as it pertains to sin and righteousness.
- We go into the waters of baptism a sinner with much that needs to be changed to be molded into the image of Christ.

1 Not Some Kind of Emotional High

Exodus 19:1–9

- Next morning, those people ride back to where they were. That kind of change isn't going to hold.
- If that will not make lasting change, what would cause any of us to ever imagine that something that we would generate as mere humans could affect real change?
- Lots of people want worship to cause some sort of feeling. That's not what worship is about, and it won't cause people to change.

2 Not Changing to Please Others

1 Corinthians 2:3–5

- Something else that won't cause people to have real change. And that's a business of changing to please others. This is a very deadly trap.
- That your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.
- When we're making it our goal to try to impress others, what's going to happen is we're going to go down the road of the Pharisees, becoming secretly smug and very self-righteous.

3 Start with Genuine Repentance

2 Corinthians 7:9–10; Proverbs 28:13

- Godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.
- This is not some sort of trivial resolution that if I keep it, that's great, but if I don't, oh, that's no big deal. Paul's talking about a change of mind.
- If we're going to make serious spiritual change in our lives, we'll have to start treating sin as it is.
- Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper. He who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

4 The Right Purpose: I Want to Go to Heaven

Philippians 3:7–14; Philippians 4:13

- What Paul was thinking is, I want to go to heaven. That's what Paul was thinking.
- I can do all things through him who strengthens me.
- To say I can't is not only to deny the power of God in my life, it is to deny his love for me.
- If the Lord wants you to go, you can go. Use that as motivation.

5 Gotta Do: Devise Good

Haggai 1:2; Proverbs 14:22

- These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.
- In the end, the house of God lay in ruins, and the people of God did nothing about it.
- Those who devise good meet steadfast love and faithfulness.
- Bit by bit, little bit at a time, I'm going to make that change. I'm going to make repentance be real in my life.

6 Devising Good Means Prayer, Patience, Perspective

Matthew 6:13; Galatians 6:9; Matthew 6:33

- Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
- Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap if we don't give up.
- Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.
- No one's asking you to become a perfect Christian in the next five seconds. What the Lord's interested in is can we serve the Lord faithfully? Now.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **What are you waiting for? Right now there's something in your life that you're trying to get right about. You're never going to get right about that if you don't start.**

MY NOTES