



TRANSFORMATION BY PARTICIPATION

MAT. 4:18-20, 28:18-20; ROM. 12:1-2

Practices

Myth: Increased information leads to transformation

Truth: Increased participation leads to transformation

Passages

Matthew 4:18-20

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

"The only way to faithfulness is to keep coming back (repenting) to the gospel ourselves. Being the people of God is fundamentally a commitment to follow in the way, the truth, and the life of Jesus. Following Jesus doesn't mean we agree with ideas about Jesus or what we might think Jesus thinks. It is a fundamental commitment to a relationship with Him in which we submit to His teachings and model His life." ~ Rick McKinley

Going Deeper

(For individuals or small groups to go deeper with the passage)

1. Read Matthew chapters 5-7 the "Sermon on the Mount"
2. Jesus makes some powerful assertions about who is "blessed" in 5:3-12. Which statement speaks to you? What is God asking of you?
3. Read the rest of the sermon (5:13-7:27). Read this same section again, but when you read a passage that speaks to you—STOP. What is the passage? Why did this one stand out? Thank God for His voice!
4. When you have the passage God pointed out to you, ask Jesus to speak to you through it. What would repenting look like for you in relationship to this passage? What would obedience look like? Where is He leading?
5. Remember, our relationship with God is established and continued by grace through faith in Christ. Therefore, repentance is a gift of hope, not a sign of failure! Turn to God. Walk in obedience with Jesus into His transforming work. Obey His voice and follow Him.