

SERMON NOTES Sunday 16th January

sunnysidechurch

Bible passages 1 Corinthians 12.1-11 & John 2.1-11

Transformation in the world's eyes can be very superficial. It's about the outside or material things. In our passage from John this morning we hear of a different kind of transformation. Yes, on the surface it looks very much like the superficial transformation of the world, water into wine.

Read John 2.1-11. Jesus is at a wedding and straight away we are informed that the wine is running out. This was a social disaster. Mary, his mother, asks Jesus to help. I wonder whether she asks him because she knows who he is and knows he can do something. Jesus transforms the situation and changes the day.

Why do we need his transformation?

Being a follower of Jesus means much more than trying to live a good life. It means letting the Holy Spirit change us. Sin can get in the way and hinder our relationship with God. Whether we realise it or not, we need Jesus, his transformation. And just like the water was transformed into wine, Jesus can transform us.

Firstly, Jesus transforms our minds. Whether we like it or not, our thoughts are shaped by the world we live in. This isn't always a bad thing but it can be. We are told to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. So, when we follow Jesus, he changes the way we think. So that we can think more like him.

Secondly, Jesus transforms our desires. Jesus has a way of transforming our desires. Somehow the things we thought we wanted, we don't want

any more or realise they aren't what God wants for us. Jesus transforms our worldly desires into desires for Him and His kingdom.

Thirdly, Jesus transforms our relationships. Jesus has a way of transforming the way we interact with others. This doesn't mean that our relationships will become straight forward or easy. When we invite Jesus into our relationships his very presence transforms and changes things. He does the transforming, but we don't sit back and become passive we have to be active.

Fourthly, Jesus transforms our purpose. One of the amazing things about being a follower of Jesus is that the purpose of life is transformed into something so fulfilling! Jesus transforms our purpose into more than we could have ever dreamed. He calls us to do things and go places we never imagined. It means a purpose that goes beyond this life. That is greater than this life.

Conclusion: If we are followers of Jesus, then we need to take a closer look at our thoughts, desires, relationships, and purpose. Asking ourselves have we allowed him to transform us? Remembering **he does** the transforming. The water didn't change on its own, it didn't change by the servants, or by Mary. The water was transformed into wine **because of Jesus**. Transformation only happens **because of Jesus**.

Some questions for discussion

1. What does transformation look like in our lives and where do we need his transformation?
2. Read **Romans 12.2**. What does the renewing of our minds look like for you? Do you struggle with your thoughts?
3. Read **Psalms 37.4**. What are your desires? Have they changed? Do we find it hard laying down our desires?
4. Are there relationships that you need to be active in and ask for Jesus' transforming presence to help you?
5. Read **1 Corinthians 12.1-11**. What gifts can we be asking the Holy Spirit for? What gift have been given to you by the Holy Spirit? Do we use them for the common good?

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