“Be Transformed!”

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday February 4th, 2018

Text: Mark 12:29-31

### Intro

1. *Mark 12:18-23:* The Sadducees asked Jesus a question concerning the resurrection
2. *Mark 12:24-27:* Jesus answered them.
3. Mark 12:28: One of the scribes came to Jesus, having heard them reasoning together and perceived Jesus had answered them well, asked Jesus “which is the first commandment of all?”
4. Mark 12:29-31: Jesus’ answer…
   1. “The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' “The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' ***There is no other commandment greater than these***.”
5. Mark 12:32-34: We need to understand as this scribe did that this is truly the understanding each and EVERY saint needs to possess in order to ensure a life of righteousness before God!
6. John 14:15: “If you love Me, keep My commandments”
   1. It is easier to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts (Titus 2:12) when we truly love the Lord with every ounce of our being!
7. We are to be a people that has been *transformed* because of our love for God!

#### Transformation Over World

* 1. Rom. 1:16-17; 6:3-4, 11-13; Gal. 3:26-29: The transforming power of the gospel takes a child of the world (Eph. 2:1-2: Satan!) and transforms them through their obedience to the word of God into a child of God (I John 3:1)!
  2. Romans 12:1-2: Paul makes three calls for Christians (“Brethren”):
     1. To pay attention (He “Urged” them!)
     2. To sacrifice (Our will and life to Christ – Glorify God in our bodies!)
     3. To change (Be not conformed to the world but transformed for Christ)
        1. “Transform” = *metamorphoō [met-am-or-fo'-o] (G3339):* to transform (The word we get “Metamorphosis” from); lit. “change form”
  3. LIVING SACRIFICE – God wants not part of, but all of you now!
     1. God does not want half a sacrifice, nor does He want a dead sacrifice — He wants a full-fledged living sacrifice! *(Lk. 9:62: Not a trial run!)*
     2. Jesus gave His ALL for us and He expects us to give our ALL for Him (I John 4:10, 19: “We love, because He first loved us”; Heb. 12:1-3).
     3. I Peter 1:15-16: …but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY” – *I Jn. 5:4: Our faith will overcome the world!*
        1. Our bodies are to be holy and acceptable to Him (I Pet. 2:5; 9) as Jesus was proven to be Holy and acceptable as the perfect sacrifice! *(I Pet. 1:18-19)*
     4. Saints, after coming out of the world (II Pet. 1:4; I Jn. 4:4), are to offer themselves to God so that their whole bodies would be for God’s glory *(I Cor. 6:18-20) –* Transformed! (Rom. 6:3-4)
        1. We are either for Jesus or against Him *(Mt. 12:30)!*
     5. Titus 2:11-13: “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,…”
  4. Saints are a people transformed from our old dead life of sin in the world *(Eph. 2:1-2)* to a new life of service to God and to one another! *(I Pet. 4:1-5)*

#### Transformation Over Fleshly Desires

* 1. Mark 12:30-31: When we keep at the forefront of our thoughts the two greatest commandments and abide in them constantly and consistently then we will not fall prey to fleshly desires! *(Jn. 14:15: “If you love Me, keep My commandments”)*
  2. Fleshly desires (Gal. 5:19-21: Deeds of the flesh) are dangerous, sinful and will keep one who practices them out of Heaven (I Cor. 6:9-10)!
     1. One cannot claim to be in a *Mark 12:30-31* relationship with God and also be engaged in the “works of the flesh” *(Gal. 5:19-21)!*
  3. Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5: They have absolutely no place for the saint! (Be dead to sin!)
     1. Those who abide in the sincere love of the Lord (Jn. 15:10; I Jn. 4:16) will develop “fruits of the Spirit” (Gal. 5:22-23)!
  4. Saints who love God with their whole being will be transformed over the bonds of fleshly desires and abide in the love of Jesus!

#### Transformation Over Apathy and Unfaithfulness

* 1. Mark 12:30-31: Apathy and Unfaithfulness will have no place in the Christian life for those that are truly keeping these first two commandments!
     1. Phil. 1:9-10; I Tim. 1:5: It is hard to be apathetic if one is sincere! It is hard to be unfaithful if one is sincere!
     2. In order to be “sincere and blameless” and to “love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith” one must be wholly devoted to God!
     3. I Pet. 1:22: We cannot be apathetic to one another if we have “a sincere love of the brethren” and “fervently love one another from the heart!”
     4. Christians who have become apathetic to the cause of Christ and service toward one another do not fully love the Lord! (I Jn. 4:7, 11-12, 20-21)
  2. Heb. 3:7-Heb. 4:11: Apathy & Unfaithfulness (unbelief) plagued the Israelites and cost them the Promised Land! Saints are to “hold fast” their faith to enter God’s rest!
     1. The Lord wants individuals to serve Him that are:
        1. “Steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (I Cor. 15:58)
        2. Cannot be unfaithful and be “always abounding in the work of the Lord!”
     2. Mt. 10:32-39; Lk. 9:62: When others or anything takes precedence in our service to God then we simply are not worthy! *(Col. 3:5: Things that we covet or are greedy for amounts to idolatry!)*
     3. Those that abide in the sincere love of God will add characteristics to their life that ensure that they will not fall (II Pet. 1:5-11)!
  3. Saints who love God will be transformed and wholly devoted to Him and to one another!

## Conclusion

1. When we are truly transformed to serve Jesus in our totality, then there will be no place for fleshly desires, apathy, unfaithfulness, or excuses of any kind! (II Cor. 3:18: Transformed into the image of Christ! *Same word as in Rom. 12:2: Metamorphosis!)*
2. Mark 12:30-31: When we continue in the doctrine of Christ, loving the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength, caring for our brethren, uplifting and edifying them, then our progress will be evident showing:
   1. FAITHFULNESS
   2. STEADFASTNESS
   3. FRUITFULNESS
3. I Cor. 15:51-53: We will all be changed! Our eternal change (immortal body for eternal punishment or immortal body for eternal life) depends on our transformation now!
4. May we all be determined now to serve our Savior with the same fervor that He exemplified when He died for you and me! ***(Change [transform] from a caterpillar to a butterfly!)***
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent of your sins and be baptized!
6. If a Christian in error, Repent and return to God!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!