

Easter Transformations

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Easter Sunday, April 4th 21

Last week we examined the difference between being “Touched” (conformed) and being “Transformed.” (Changed) Jesus didn’t come to simply give us a “touch” of God, but rather to bring us a life transformed by God and for God. This was on his heart and in his prayers. (Jn 17:21-23) It’s interesting to note that in between God *“working in us”* (Ph. 2:13) and us becoming *“blameless and harmless the sons of God without rebuke...”* (Vs 15) we find the reality of vs 14: *“Do all things without murmurings and disputings:”*

In between what (and where) we are and what (and where) God wants us, we find the reality of disappointment, disagreements, and discouragement. The terrible truth is that we are in a world that is broken by sin and the sorrow that it brings. The disciples were no strangers to this process. In spite of Jesus’ repeated warnings (See Mt. 16:21; Jn 16:32,33) they still were unprepared for the apparent death of all of their dreams. Jesus’ question on that cruel cross mirrored their own:

“My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?” Mt 27:46; Ps 22:1

This transition between frustration and faith is a journey we all must take in order to prepare for the Resurrection of Our hopes and the Transformation of our hearts. Jesus’ last statement from the cross illustrates this truth! *“Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit...”* Luke 23:46.

What difference did Easter actually Make?

1. Easter transformed the Cross!

A. From object of contempt to a symbol of commitment! Gal. 6:14 *“God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”*

B. From Pain to Power! 1 Cor 1:18 *“the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”*

C. From sorrow to:

1) Self denial! Lk 9:23-24 *“If any man will come after me, let him: deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”*

2) Substitution: Gal 2:20 *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live ... I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”*

2. Easter transformed the tomb (Death)

A. From the end to a new beginning! 1 Cor 15:51-52 *“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”*

B. From Horror to Hope. 1 Thess. 4:13-14 *“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.”*

C. From terror to triumph. Heb 2:14-15 *“as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”*

1 Cor 15:54-55 *“Death is swallowed up in victory! O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”*

3. Transformed the Disciples.

A. From Crippled Cowards (Jn 20:19) To Courageous Conquerors! Ro. 8:31-39
vs 37 *"in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."*

B. From Anxious associates to approved Ambassadors! 2 Cor 5:20
"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ"

Lk 24:48 *"Ye are witnesses of these things"*

Conclusion: How is such a transformation possible?

The 2nd Law of Thermodynamics reveals the law of "entropy" or death/decay.

But the 1st Law of Thermodynamics is the law of "Conservation of Energy" and states that:

"Energy (matter) cannot be created or destroyed, only altered in form."

Sin brings Entropy (death) (Ro. 6:23) but Grace brings Transformation life. (Ro. 5:19,20)

"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound."

1) Jesus substituted himself for our judgment (Sin). Ro 5:8; 1 Tim. 2:6; 2 Cor. 5:19,20

"God was in Christ, reconciling (Katallas'so: to change mutually, Transform) the world unto himself, he hath made him to be sin for us, ...; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." (See Jn 19:30)

2) We should exchange our priorities, for His Priorities/Purposes. 2 Cor 5:14,15

Application: Easter Transformed the Cross, the Grave, and the Disciples:

Will you allow it to Transform you by:

1) Accepting God's Gift of reconciliation? 2 Cor 5:18 *"God hath reconciled*

(Katallas'so: changed, transformed) us to himself by Jesus Christ,...

20 *He hath Made him to be sin for us... That we might be made the righteousness of God."*

2) Accepting God's "Assignment"? 2 Cor 5:18 *"and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation" (Katallagē: Restoration, Substitution, Adjustment!)*

2 Cor 5:19 *"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ"*

3) Cooperating (Partnering) with God's Spirit, to make the "Adjustments" necessary to be an effective "Ambassador"? 2 Cor. 5:20

"as though God did beseech you. . . we pray you in Christ's stead, Be ye reconciled to God"

Katallagē': Restoration, Substitution, Adjustment!

"The simplest meaning of Easter is that we are living in a world in which God has the last word. On Friday night it appeared as if evil were the master of life. The holiest and most lovable One who had ever lived was dead and in His tomb, crucified by the order of a tyrant without either scruples or regrets. He who had raised the highest hopes among men had died by the most shameful means. A cross, two nails, a jeering mob of debauched souls, and a quick thrust of a spear had ended it all. Those hours when His voice was stilled and His hands were quiet were the blackest through which the race has ever lived. If Caesar could put an end to Jesus, then no man could ever dare aspire or hope again. Hope, in such a world, could be nothing better than a mockery. Then came Easter morning and the glorious word: "He is risen!" And evil's triumph was at an end. Since that hour when Mary in the garden first discovered the staggering fact of victory, no man whose heart was pure and whose labors were honest has ever had reason to fear or despair if he believed in the Resurrection." Paul Harvey