

Have you been Touched or Transformed?

Ro. 12:1,2; 1 Cor 2:6-16

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Palm Sunday, March 28th AM

Palm Sunday powerfully illustrates the “Tyranny of the Temporary”. Because the short term focus of the Jews of Jesus’ day (including the apostles) rapidly shifted from the Praises of Palm Sunday, to the Painful Rejection a few days later. Jesus had spent his life “touching” thousands while teaching about genuine “transformation”. But how many of those he touched were truly “transformed”? “Multitudes” heard his preaching, saw (experienced) his miracles, and even ate his meals! (Mt 14; 15; Jn 6)

Relatively few who followed him were genuinely “Committed”; Most were simply “consumers”!

When he asked them for a practical application and deeper commitment to the ways of God, *“Many of his disciples said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? ... When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?”* (John 6:60,61)

He turned to ask his apostles: *“Will ye also go away?”* Vs 67

What level of commitment to Christ do you find “Offensive”?

The fickle and fallen nature of man is such that we’re easily influenced by the tempests of our temporary: Self Interests (*Passion, Pain, Pleasure*) and Society (*changing values or priorities*). This is why the cheers Of Palm Sunday so quickly turned to the Jeers. “Crucify Him” (Jn 19:15) Even the apostles, after years of personal contact, *“all forsook him and fled.”* Mk. 14:50

Is it possible that we (like them) can spend years being “touched” by Jesus, without ever truly becoming “transformed” by His Spirit?

1. The difference between Touched and Transformed. Ro. 12:2

“be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind”

A. Difference in Depth.

- 1) **Conformed: from sun: (Union, together) and schema (fashion based on external condition)**
 - a) Implies we’re “moved” or “molded” by something external. (aka: skin deep)
 - b) The feeling seldom outlasts the “force” or pressure. (*Like a balloon or rubber band*)
- 2) **Transformed: from meta’: (accompaniment, with) and morphoo (to fashion or adjust)**
 - a) Implies molded / adjusted by someone internal! Jn 14:16-18
 - b) Implies we’re designed / adjusted for specific purposes. (Jer. 29:11; Ro. 12:2)

B. Difference in Duration.

- 1) **“Touch” (Conformation) is temporary.**
 - a) It’s based on external circumstances.
 - b) As the pressure / culture changes, we tend to change or return to “normal”. Mt. 13:20-21
- 2) **Transformation is lasting.**
 - a) It’s independent of externals! 1 Jn. 2:15,16
 - b) Based on a relationship with God; Instead of a reaction to temporary pressures! (2 Cor. 4)

2. The “trouble” with transformation. (Why it’s hard and rare)

A. It takes **time!** (Heb. 12:1,2; James 1:2-5)

- 1) We’re in a “quick fix” (touch) world!
- 2) We’re “transfixed” with the temporary!

B. It takes **trust!** “a living sacrifice” (Ro. 12:1)

- 1) Trust comes before transformation. Ro. 12:1 comes before Ro. 12:2!

C. It takes **tenacity!** Ro. 12:2 “transformed by the renewing (renovation) of your mind”

- 1) It’s **hard** work! “study to show yourself approved...a workman” (2 Tim. 2:15)
- 2) It’s **humbling** work. (2 Cor. 10:3-5) It’s hard to admit we’ve been deceived! Col 2:6-8
- 3) It’s **Holy** Work! (Heb. 12:1,2; Ro. 12:1; Rev. 4:11; Zech. 4:6) (See also Heb. 10:36)

D. It takes **Team-Work.**

- 1) This is the core of fellowship. Partnership with God (Jn. 15:5) and others (Heb. 10:23-25).

Conclusion: What’s the result of being touched without being transformed?

- 1) **We’ll Lack Depth.** Mt. 13:20 *“But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself...”*
- 2) **We’ll Lack Duration.** Mt. 13:21 *“... but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.”* skandalizō: offended, tripped up.

Application: Which element of Transformation is causing you the most trouble?

- 1) **Time?** Heb. 10:34-39, James 1:4 *“Let patience have her perfect work that ye may be perfect and entire..”*
- 2) **Trust?** Pr. 3:5,6 *“trust in the Lord with all thine heart...and he shall direct your steps.”*
- 3) **Tenacity?** 1 Cor 9:25-27 *“every man that strives for the mastery is temperate in all things”*
- 4) **Team-work?** Hebrews 3:12-13 *“exhort one another daily...lest any of you be hardened...”*

Ultimately, it’s God that does the transforming!

But He won’t “take” and “transform” any area we refuse to give Him!

Ro. 12:1,2 *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your _____ a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind”*

- What area of your life do you need “transformed”? *Are you willing to give it to God?*
- How do you know you’ve been transformed? (Ro. 12:2)

You’ll begin to “prove” (dokimazō: approve) God’s will as truly:

“Good”: agathos: beneficial. **“Acceptable”:** euar’estos: fully agreeable!

And **“Perfect”:** teleios: completely perfect!

Luke 22:42 *“nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”*

God gives His best to those who leave the choice with Him! *Will You?*