

March 10-March 16:

“All Things Become New”

Sunday 1, John 3:1-8

This week is about the newness that comes from transformation. When Nicodemus meets Jesus, he knows he is in the presence of someone special, but Nicodemus does not fully understand what Jesus says. Jesus pushes Nicodemus to look at his own need for a change. “...no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” Born again not only means born a second time. Born again also means born “from above”. In other words, the renewal that we need is made possible by the Holy Spirit (v.6). We cannot do it on our own. This week prayerfully examine your life and ask God to lovingly reveal to you where you need the transforming power of the Spirit to work in you. You are a work in progress. Trust that even now the Holy Spirit is at work in you.

Prayer: “Come Holy Spirit, come. You must renew me so that I can experience a change in my attitude, my priorities and my decisions. Blow like the wind through me and over me, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Monday, Mark 1:1-3

It is already Monday. Are you prepared for this week? More important, how are you preparing yourself to serve God and to hear God? God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus. John came preaching and baptizing in the Jordan River. He told the people to make straight paths for the Lord. For God to get the most out of our lives, we must prepare daily. Prepare by reading God’s word. Prepare by spending quiet moments before God. Prepare by

worshipping God. Prepare by serving God’s people. Anything worth doing, is worth preparing for. Lent is a time of preparation. Use your time wisely. And get ready.

Prayer: Thank you for this time of devotion, God. So often we let distractions get in the way. We are too busy. Help us prepare ourselves spiritually. We want to be vessels for your mercy, love and grace today. Amen.

Tuesday, Hebrews 10:19-22

Have you ever tried your hardest to open something that would not open? Someone else had to show you that you were trying to open it the wrong way. Once we followed the right way, everything worked so much better. Today we can have confidence because through Jesus we can discover a new way to live. Hebrews calls this a “living” way. Some of the ways we live do not give us life. They may only lead to death. Are you following in a path that leads to life? Draw near to God. Jesus is our great high priest and he will lead us to LIFE.

Prayer: God of all life, give us confidence today. We put aside doubts and fears and give thanks that you are our high priest. Show us the way—the new and better way to live—the way that leads to life. Amen.

Wednesday, Mark 2:18-22

What needs to change in order for you to move in a new direction? What’s holding you back? Jesus came to bring in a new way of life, but to experience this new life he knew that lots of things were going to have to change. If nothing changed, sooner or later people would just fall back into

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their old routines. You cannot take a new piece of cloth and sew it on an old garment. Eventually, the hole is worse. If you put new wine into old wineskins, the wineskins burst. So, what needs to change for you to move in a new direction? What wineskins need to be replaced so you can enjoy the new gifts God wants to give to you and through you?

Prayer: Forgive me Lord, for trying to keep things just as they are. Give me the courage to let go of the old wineskins. Give me the faith to receive the new wine. Something new is coming into my life, into my faith, into my relationships, in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

Thursday, Isaiah 62:1-4

Names matter. We give each other nicknames. Lovers give each other terms of endearment. When we experience God's transformation, God gives us a new name. Some of the old ways we once described ourselves will no longer apply. Scared. Inadequate. Worthless. These are not our names. God promises to give a new name that the Lord will choose. Blessed. Loved. Valued. These are the names we have receive from God. Make yourself a nametag if you must, but do not forget that you have a new name. God gave it to you!

Prayer: God of Abraham and Sarah, you named and renamed your people. Today we have decided to no longer answer to the false names we have answered to. Today we accept the new name you have chosen for us. We praise you because your Name is above every name. Amen.

Friday, 1 Peter 1:3-4

The gifts we receive from God are so undeserved that Peter rightly praises God for his great *mercy*. Where would we be without the mercy of God? We now have an unconquerable hope, a hope that is rooted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Once our faith is anchored in that historical event, we can cling to a promise from God that will not disappoint us. So, I dare you to stand firmly today on the truth of the resurrection. This is a hope that makes all things new.

Prayer: God we praise you and magnify your Holy name. Thank you for your unfailing mercy. Our hearts rejoice because of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The same way you raised him, raise our hopes and our faith to know that with you all things are possible. Amen.

Saturday, Luke 15:11-21

We all need second changes. We all need third, fourth and fifth chances, too. Thankfully, we have a God who is like the father in this parable. When he saw his son a long way off, he ran out to meet him. Wherever you are today, God is waiting for you. Yesterday is over. Today is a new day. You do not need to ever wonder how God will receive you. When you return, God will welcome you with open arms. When will you come to your senses and come back home?

Prayer: Loving God, we praise you for your compassion and grace. Help us to come to our senses and start moving to where you want us to be. Thank you for always having our room ready when we return. Amen.