

Build, Reach, Transform: TRANSFORM – 2 Corinthians 5:17 – Martin Bull – 18/09/16

Introduction – People in the NT who are transformed

Matthew (Levi) – Luke 5 – Tax collector (crooked Roman collaborator) → disciple

Legion – Mark 5, Luke 8 – Naked, Self, harming outcast → dressed and in his right mind

Lazarus – John 11 – Dead man → living person

Zacchaeus – Luke 19 – Tax collector, called down the tree → giving back more than he'd swindled out of people

Peter – Denied being with Jesus → Rock of the church

Mary Magdalene – Delivered of evil spirits → devoted mourner, privileged resurrection witness

Saul / Paul – Having Christians killed → being willing to die for Jesus

Jesus – Like us, tempted & mortal, dying on a cross & laid in a tomb → Glorious, Alive for every more (Rev 1:18)

1. Our story demonstrates God's transforming power

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Cor 5:17)

1.1 Your story

- 5 gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, YOURS.
 - Your story is often the first one people will read
 - Your story is the one that will get people to read the others

1.2 How to tell your story well

Before – What happened – After

Be snappy, clear, no jargon, no superiority

Q. Are you confident sharing your story in this way?

Q. Does your life lived out demonstrate God's transforming power?

2. Things that get transformed

Character (Ephesians 4:31, Galatians 5)

Habits (Romans 8:13)

Personal Freedom – fear

Family Life

Physical Healing

Depression

Salvation

- Death → Life
- Darkness → Light
- Orphans → Adoption
- Sin → Grace
- Guilty → Free

We're to receive this transformation – share this transformation – Offer this transformation

Conclusion

Transformation happens when people meet Jesus

- Through us
- Through the Holy Spirit

Transformation is ongoing – so our story should be on going too

- *"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2)*

Transformation is a work of God

- *"He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!' Then he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.'" (Rev 21:5)*