

SOUTHWEST LIFE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Keep the Change - (The Challenge of Change) - 3-11-07

Ice Breakers:

- In nature, what are some great examples of change? Or examples of great change?
- How have I changed physically?
- How would I like to change physically?
- Why is physical change I don't want so easy?
- Why is physical change I want so hard?

Heating Up: Why is spiritual change so difficult?

The Text: Matthew 16:13-23 – Read this text, consider this scene between Jesus and Peter and then discuss the following questions:

- Who did Peter say that Jesus was (v. 16)?
- If Peter has identified Jesus as the Christ (i.e. Messiah), then what might Peter be thinking of Jesus?
- If Peter saw Jesus as the one spoken of by Isaiah (Is 53), what should Peter have known about Jesus?
- If Peter had known what Isaiah knew, what should have been Peter's reaction to the things Jesus started to explain in v. 21?
- Who do you think revealed to Peter the information that he said in v. 16? Who does Jesus state revealed that info to Peter?
- Who do you think revealed to Peter the things he said in v. 22? Who does Jesus state revealed that to Peter (see v.23)?
- Could this be why Jesus referred to Peter as "Satan" in v. 23?
- Get the picture? Jesus is changing the conversation. No doubt Jesus is changing the conversation to prepare his disciples for the change that they need. But Satan doesn't want that to happen and prompts Peter in a way designed to try to stop not only that life-changing discussion, but also the life-changing mission of Jesus.

Going Deep: Even after spiritual highs, how has Satan lied to you to stop or to attempt to stop God's desired change in your life? For example:

- "You can't really change"
- "You are the way you are and there is nothing you can do about it"
- "If God really loved you, then he would accept you just like you are"
- "You can't change right now; do that latter"

Discuss this statement: "IF YOU ARE TO BE TRANSFORMED (CHANGED) THE WAY GOD WANTS FOR YOU, THEN YOU MUST BE VERY CAREFUL WHO YOU LISTEN TO."

Discuss some practical ways to insure that you are listening to God, not Satan. For example:

- Spend lots of time reading, meditating and praying over scripture. Make that a habit in your life.
- Check what your heart tells you against the truth of scriptures.
- Engage with one or two godly people in ways that you are held accountable, influenced and advised.
- Frequently, list the lies that Satan prompts you with and write those down, clearly identify Satan's lies and prompts and then when you hear those denounce that and order Satan to flee.

Pray: Ask God to help you to see life through a lens of "change is desirable".