**Change The Heart**

1. There is a glaring amount of suffering in this world and it frustrates each of us.

*The women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.* **Luke 24:1**

1. Jesus’ resurrection disarms a hopeless perspective.

*Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!* **Luke 24:5-6**

1. Hope in the midst of pain is hard to grasp.

*But they did not believe the women because their words seemed like nonsense.* **Luke 24:11**

1. Give your heart permission to believe again.

*Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb.* **Luke 24:12**

*Why do you look for the living among the dead?*

~Luke 24:5

April 20, 2014

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Ezekiel 11:19**
* **Tuesday 2 Corinthians 5:17**
* **Wednesday Psalm 37:4**
* **Thursday James 3:1-18**
* **Friday Joel 2:1-32**
* **Saturday Mark 16:16**

*The word of God is living and active sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

**Hebrews 4:12**

Meditate

What in this world that brings you the most sorrow and sacks you of your hope?

Where do you expect there to be hurt and frustration?

When has someone tried to offer you hope in the midst of pain and suffering?

How did you respond to the person who tried to offer you some hope?

Are you ready trust God to be the hope he promises to be?

*Lord, I look around the world and all I see is pain. Every time I see a ray of light I try and grasp it, but it fades away as well. God, you disarm the hopelessness in the world by conquering darkness. Help me to be able to conquer darkness and shine the light that you lit that first Easter morning. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

*Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us?*

~Luke 24:32

April 27, 2014

**Change Your Perspective**

1. We see the world with a tainted and limiting worldview.

*Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.* **Luke 24:15b-16**

1. God’s story has been playing out long before we showed up.

*And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the scriptures concerning himself.* **Luke 24:27**

1. Deeper understanding of the story helps our understanding of the world around us.

*Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.”* **Luke 24:29**

1. When your heart burns, the Spirit is speaking-

pay attention, take notes!

*Were our hearts not burning within us while he talked with us?* **Luke 24:32**

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Isaiah 26:3**
* **Tuesday 1 John 4:18**
* **Wednesday 2 Corinthians 12:9**
* **Thursday Hebrews 13:5-6**
* **Friday Matthew 11:28-29**
* **Saturday Psalm 24**

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**Hebrews 4:12**

Meditate

What consumes your view from day to day?

How is your view of the world tainted by your up bringing, political stances, and preferences?

How does God’s story intertwine with your story?

What was an event that helped bring clarity to your understanding of the world?

When does your heart burn?

*Lord, I am impacted deeply by the things that happen around me. I know that not all my perspectives honor you but I do not know any other way. God teach me how to understand the world in light of your story. As I learn, I will submit to your world so I can play a part in changing it for your glory. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

*Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus*

~Philippians 2:5

May 4, 2014

**Change Your Attitude**

1. Our attitude is a determining factor in our approach to life.

*A man reaps what he sows* **Galatians 6:7**

1. An attitude of praise and thankfulness turns focus toward God.

*…whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.* **Galatians 6:8**

1. An attitude of humility enables us to think beyond ourselves.

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.* **Galatians 6:9**

1. We change the world when we align our hearts with the Creator whose goal is redemption.

*Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.* **Philippians 2:5**

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Psalm 150**
* **Tuesday Philippians 2**
* **Wednesday Philippians 4:8-9**
* **Thursday Colossians 2:23**
* **Friday Matthew 5:3-10**
* **Saturday Hebrews 13:15**

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**Hebrews 4:12**

Meditate

How would you describe your general attitude toward life and the things around you?

How do the attitudes of other people impact your life?

Have you ever thought of praise as a choice that effect attitude?

When was the last time you exhibited an attitude of humility? What relationship do you think could benefit the most from an attitude of humility?

What challenges you the most in aligning your heart with the heart of God?

*God, you resist the proud and give strength to the humble. Help me experience and have an attitude of humility toward the world around me. Let this attitude show your love even in the most difficult situations. I will not grow weary in doing good, but I will keep going till I see your harvest. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

*I press on toward the goal to win the prize…*

~Philippians 3:14

May 11, 2014

**Change Your Focus**

1. There is great importance in assessing the direction of our lives and what we value.

*Whatever gains to me I consider loss for the sake of Christ.* **Philippians 3:7**

1. There are a lot of distractions which take our eyes off of what will make the difference.

*I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...* **Philippians 3:8**

1. A life fully defined by Jesus Christ is a radical existence.

*To know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.* **Philippians 3:10-11**

1. Focus on Christ and the world will change because of your focus.

*I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.* **Philippians 3:14**

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Colossians 3:2**
* **Tuesday Psalm 1:1-6**
* **Wednesday Matthew 6:33**
* **Thursday Proverbs 4:25**
* **Friday Romans 8:5**
* **Saturday 2 Timothy 2:15**

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**Hebrews 4:12**

Meditate

When was the last time you assessed what is valuable in your life?

What are some distractions that take your focus away from God and faith in Christ?

How would your life be different if you lived radically for the message of Jesus?

When have you seen things change because of focus?

What do you wish could change that could be impacted by a radical obedience to Jesus?

*Jesus, I am so distracted. I have so many things in this world that vie for my attention that I often lose focus of you. I am going to be more like you. When you went to he cross and died for me, you were focused on the task at hand and completed the work. Help me as I endeavor to complete the work you have called me to do. In Your name I pray, Amen.*

*They may see your good deeds and glorify God*

*on the day he visits.*~1 Peter 2:12

May 18, 2014

**Change Your Environment**

1. We have a deep loyalty to the life we are most comfortable living.
2. Realigning our loyalty to Christ is an act of war.

*I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.* **1 Peter 2:11**

1. Doing good because of your loyalty to Christ is the catalyst for change.

*Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deed and glorify God on the day he visits us.* **1 Peter 2:12**

1. The world will be changed when we choose to share in the sufferings of Christ.

*He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed.* **1 Peter 2:24**

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Matthew 6:1-4**
* **Tuesday Colossians 3:17**
* **Wednesday Hebrews 10:24-25**
* **Thursday Matthew 7:21-23**
* **Friday Titus 2:7-9**
* **Saturday Galatians 5:19-26**

*The word of God is living and active sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

**Hebrews 4:12**

Meditate

What is a comfort you have that you don’t want to give up, but you know it would be good if you did?

What tensions would manifest in your life if you surrendered your life completely to Jesus?

When you do good things now, what is your motivation?

How would it affect you if you began to do good for the glory of God and not for yourself?

How serious are you about wanting to change the world?

*God, you created this world and called it good. My sin and the sin of those around me is what ruins it. I am aligning myself with you God, I am declaring my loyalty and declaring war on those things that pull me away from you. I will take joy in doing good even when people don’t recognize it. I want you to receive all the glory for things I do on this earth until I get to my homeland with you in heaven. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*