

# Coach House Church BEACONS

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## WIND OF CHANGE

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29TH OCTOBER 2020

We don't like change .

We LOVE the familiar, no surprises, known, routines and habits. We don't take well to people or circumstances that bring about change. For example: A New boss at work, with new ideas, new targets and new standards- not good ! It makes us suspicious, unsettled; a new teacher in the last year of studies - makes us afraid and question "why now and why me ? Mr Joans was fine!"

Change is bad.. or is it ?

When Jesus started his ministry, he hit a wall of doubt, fear and anger from the people who were settled with Moses law. From the law, they knew what to expect, they knew the drill. They had ways of doing things and ways to get around things. They found loopholes in the law to preserve their interests; They just wanted to look holy and righteous, just a facade, to make people stare in wonder. Jesus set new standards. He saw inside their hearts and called them out for their hypocrisy. The rulers resented him for it.

The law taught not to kill. Jesus went a step further and said this:

"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell."

Matthew 5:21-22 NIV

Jesus came with change and therefore encountered resistance.

When you read through the gospels, you find countless accounts of when Jesus had different opinions about what should and shouldn't be done, regarding the issues presented to him by the leaders and the teachers of the law of that time. He wanted forgiveness instead of judgement, when the law was clear that if someone did something wrong, they had to suffer the rod of the law. When Jesus met a

woman who had been caught in adultery her accusers wanted Jesus to endorse a harsh punishment as the Law demanded. He pointed out that they were just as guilty as she was and instead of agreeing with her accusers, He forgave her and advised her not to sin again.

He warned the teachers of the law that they were keeping the letter of the law without considering the people they were dealing with:

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.”

Matthew 23:23

Jesus was a very different kind of spiritual leader. He sat down and ate with people whom the leaders of the day considered unworthy, unclean, sinners. He cared about the lepers and the blind who shouted to him on the road for help.

Many people that encountered Jesus were changed : tax collectors stopped robbing people, dishonest people payed back their dishonest gain, fishermen became teachers of this better way of life that Jesus was teaching, crippled and paralysed people were healed. Now we are starting to see that change can be good. It can bring about progress. No one would prefer to be stuck in a rut instead of advancing foreword. In Mark's Gospel we read about a person that was stuck on his mat. He was in desperate need of change. Here's how Mark describes it :

“A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them.

Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, “Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” He got up, took his mat and walked out

in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!" Mark 2:1-12 NIV

Jesus came because the blood of the animal sacrifices, required by Jewish law, was not able to atone for people's sins. He came as the perfect sacrifice who would pay, once and for all, for the sin of humanity.

In the text from Mark 2 we hear him say that the paralysed's man sins are forgiven and you might ask yourself why is that there as it seems out of place.

What Jesus is actually saying here is : "I'm the Messiah you were told about by the prophets of old, who came to bring you salvation and forgiveness of your sins. And this is my proof - this man's healing. If who I say I am would be a lie, this man would not have been healed"

When a person meets Jesus and believes that he is who he says he is, a change starts from inside, from that person's heart outward.

Where are you in your life?

Are you the man on the mat expecting others to provide for your needs. Lost in self pity? Or, are you tired of fighting and in need of support and strong arms to carry you to Jesus ?

Are you one of the friends that are carrying the man to Jesus ? Able to see your friend's need and lack of strength or motivation; Determined not to abandon him but carry him for a while to the one that is able to heal and bring about real change? Or are you one of the people sat in the crowd, too busy observing what is happening to pay any attention to who wants to come in. Too preoccupied with having a good spot in church and being in the middle of the action, unable see the needs around you?

Far from being something to fear or dislike, change is actually something to embrace. Jesus expects you to change, in fact He requires you to change.

When you read the Bible or when you pray, do so, fully expecting Jesus to ask you to change something in your life.



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