

A Change of Heart Clergy

Talk #4

Saturday

Length of Talk: 20 Minutes

PURPOSE:

God is calling tells the story how an individual accepts the relationship that only God offers to us. It begins with our “**Change of Heart**” as we realize this is something we do not deserve or something we can earn with works. God enables us to change by doing a work on our hearts. God offers us a relationship just as we are and we must accept His calling to us. **Yes** is the important part of this talk as we must say yes to His offer before He will enter our hearts.

OUTLINE:

Scripture Reading: Luke 22: 55-62 or Luke 4: 16-22

I. The relationship God offers us.

1. God constantly pursues us as we have heard in the God is Calling talk. (He is called the Hound of Heaven)
2. The Old Testament tells of God repeatedly calling us to a covenant relationship (A mutual love relationship)
 - You may give examples from the Old Testament.
3. The prophets were engage in calling the unfaithful back into a genuine relationship with God.
 - Ezekiel 12: 1-6.....Jonah 1: 1-2.....Hosea 1: 2-3
4. Jesus began His ministry calling people to the relationship offered by God (Luke 4: 16-22)
5. God offers us the genuine love of self giving (1 John 4 17-22)

II. Our acceptance of the Relationship.

1. When we have a “Change or Heart,” accept God’s offer, place ourselves into His care, it is called conversion.
2. Conversion requires confession.
 - a. We recognize our unworthiness and sin.
 - b. We are remorseful.
 - c. We trust God to accomplish salvation for us by grace.

- d. We must surrender our total self to our Creator.
 - e. We must accept through faith not works for our salvation. (Romans 3:21-26)
3. Conversion comes when we accept Jesus as the sole way for our salvation.
 - a. We will come to a better understanding of our predicament and lean on Him.
 - b. We come to a better understanding of the claim God is placing on our lives.
 4. Jesus ask His followers from the beginning of His ministry to have faith and place their trust in Him.
 - a. We no longer rely on their strength but depend, by faith, on Him and His guiding Word.
 - b. Faith is the foundation, not the result of good works (John 12: 1-7 especially note on verse 7)
 - c. Paul's justification was by faith. (Galatians 3: 1-9)

III. God's activity in our acceptance (John1: 11-12)

1. Faith is reasonable as God appeals to our intellect. (Ephesians 4: 13)
2. We should not depend on emotions but respond to them in a positive way when God appeals to them.
3. It is only through God's unconditional love that a relationship with Him is possible.
4. The act of our willingness to participate in God's plan ensures the success of God's Will.

IV. Hearts continue to change as we lead lives with Christian Discipline.

1. We must accept God's grace and forgiveness to change our hearts initially and point the right direction.
2. The disciplines of prayer, scripture reading, meditation and action allow God's grace to strengthen us to do His will.
3. The disciplines listed above help us to become like Jesus in mind and heart.
4. The chief encounters we have with Christ will occur in prayer and meditation on scriptures.

Suggestion: Remind the residents that the team and clergy members will be available throughout the weekend for counseling.