



KINGDOM CULTURE VIDEO TRANSCRIPT WEEK NINE

Teaching Video Transcript | Week 9: Kingdom Culture Serves



I want to show a picture of The Twelve Apostles. It's not what you expected is it? The Twelve Apostles is a collection of limestone pillars in Port Campbell National Park in Victoria, Australia. Photographer and Christian, Dave Adamson writes about The Twelve Apostles saying:

"These 50-meter high rock formations have been transformed and shaped by the constant pressure of the tides and currents, and the waves crashing over and—in some cases—through them.

Now, if these giant formations were to have a year's worth of water dumped on them at one time, they'd probably not be transformed ... but because the water is a constant and regular force, the hard limestone of the cliff face has been reshaped into these spectacular monoliths.

I think this is a picture of how the Word of God can transform us. When we allow ourselves to be influenced by the wisdom in the Bible on a regular basis—when we read the scriptures... then God's Word begins to shape and transform who we are. And it transforms what we do.

But, like the Twelve Apostles, this only happens over time with constant, regular influence. If you want your life to be shaped and transformed by God, then you need to make regular and consistent time for his Word to wash over you.

Then, you need to act on what you read so it can change the way you behave, the words you say, the things you post, your focus and your purpose. See, the Hebrew word translated as "transform" in the Bible is "suwm" (pronounced "soom"), which means to change, but also means to serve. Transforming your faith requires action.

Perhaps this is why James, the brother of Jesus, said your faith is transformed when don't just read God's Word, but "... do what it says" (James 1:22)." (<https://www.instagram.com/p/CFHO36SAvot/>)

The Apostle James makes sure his audience understands that faith in Jesus should translate into action. In chapter one he writes: Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. (James 1:22, NIV)

And then in the next chapter he writes: 14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (James 2:14-17, NIV)

I want you grasp the significance of what James is talking about. Notice that James is not coming from

the point of need that the church needs someone to teach children or clean bathrooms. In fact he's not talking about what the church needs at all, he's talking about what you and I need. He's saying if what we believe about Jesus doesn't get translated into how we live our life, then our faith is not real. It's dead. Faith that translates into service is natural.

Serving is part of the identity of a follower of Jesus. The Bible tells us that ...we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10, NIV) We were created to do the good things that God planned for us to do. On numerous occasions in Paul's letters to the first century churches he would teach how God has created us with a specific purpose to do. He writes: A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. (1 Corinthians 12:7, NLT) When we serve God and others using our gifting we are living out our purpose in the identity God has for us.

Eric Liddell was a Scottish track star who won gold in the 1924 Paris Olympics. His life and faith inspired the movie Chariots of Fire. Through his faith in Christ he knew God had gifted him and this is what he said: "I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast! And when I run I feel his pleasure." When we serve God and others in our purposeful identity as God's sons and daughters we feel God's pleasure. Now if you struggle with knowing what your purpose is I would encourage to ask God to reveal your purpose to you.

That's how God uses serving to transform us, but Christianity isn't just about us, it's about being part of the kingdom of God. When his disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray he told them to pray that God's kingdom would come and God's will would be done on earth as it is in heaven (Mt 6:10). God wants to transform the world through the body of Christ as we do the will of God on earth. And doing God's will includes serving God and others.

Read through the New Testament and you will read the importance of serving God and others. Jesus actually tells us that serving others points people to God. He said: ...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16, NIV) When people see that our faith makes a difference in the way we live our lives because we serve and care for others it catches people's attentions because that's not the way the world works. Paul reminds us to have the same attitude that Christ himself had which was to take on the very nature of a servant. (Philippians 2:7) Serving God and others humbly like Jesus did is a powerful witness to others.

When Christ followers live what they believe serving God and serving others it's a powerful witness to the world and God can use that to bring people to faith in Christ. On numerous occasions I have seen people who wouldn't call themselves Christians and people who were nominal in their faith in Christ come to faith in Christ because they were attracted to the church which was making a difference by serving others.

In the culture of the kingdom of God Christians serve because we are following Jesus' example who took the servant's towel and washed the feet of the disciples and then he said I have set you an example that you should do as I have done... (John 13:15, NIV) Serving is one of the ways we help establish the kingdom of God on earth. We also serve because it's who God created us to be and when we are serving we are living out our purpose. Let your faith in Jesus and your serve to him transform you into who God wants you to be.

Prayer

Valley Brook Community Church All Church Study: Video Transcript Week Nine

