

TRANSFORMED: Blessing of the Second Birth

(John 3:1-18)

Introduction

A) David Platt spoke on the issue of discipleship at the 2013 Verge Conference, asking what it means to know Christ biblically and to be an actual disciple of Jesus Christ. "We're living in a day when it means almost nothing to be a Christian," said Platt, sharing recent statistics that show many self-professed believers in the U.S. are "marginally committed to Jesus," which he said shows that many are "deceived" about their relationship with Christ.

"There are a whole lot of people in our country who think that they are Christians but they are not," he added, noting that there are many Americans who "culturally identify themselves as Christians and biblically are not followers of Christ." He cited Jesus as saying in Matthew 7:21 of the Bible that "not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven."

B) At every opportunity, Jesus spoke of transformation. He did not call for conformation to a set of rules or participation in a set of rituals in order to become a Christian. Rather, he called for spiritual transformation. Jesus called for heart-change, resulting in life-change.

C) Contextualize John 3 in the TRANSFORMED series.

D) Contextualize John 3:1-18 – Nicodemus conversation with Jesus.

I. The Prospect for Transformation (v. 1-7)

Principle: *There is no one so good that they do not need transformation.*

A) The Inquiry of The Religious (v. 1-2)

(Religion says do in order to have eternal life.)

B) The Challenge Toward Transformation (v. 3)

(Jesus says be born again to have eternal life.)

C) The Confusion Over Transformation (v. 4-7)

II. The Pictures Of Transformation (v. 9-12)

***Principle:** The blessings of God are found in the second birth (transformation.)*

- A) Adam's children (Cain vs. Abel)
- B) Abraham's children (Ishmael vs. Isaac)
- C) Isaac's children (Esau vs. Jacob)
- D) Jacob's Children (Joseph and Benjamin)

III. The Plan for Transformation

***Principle:** The only way to eternal life is transformation through saving faith in Jesus Christ.*

- A) Reason for Transformation (v. 18).
- B) Means of Transformation (v. 17)
- C) Motive of the Transformer (v. 16)

Conclusion.

II. The Transformation at the Wedding (v. 6-9)

Principle: Only Jesus can change the nature of your heart and transform your life.

- A) Divine Transformation (v. 9)

B) Dramatic Joy (v. 9-10)

Illustration: Woman Caught in Adultery (John 8:2-11)
Apostle Paul
Some of you

Application: Jesus is the answer to your every need.

III. The Ripple Effect

Principle: A vessel of transformation will become a conduit of transformation.

Conclusion