

Melva's Corner

READY OR NOT- CHANGE WILL COME!

July 25, 2005

Bible Text: James 1:17

Central Truth: Life is always changing and how I react is my choice.

“Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father who created all the lights in the heavens. He is always the same and never makes dark shadows by changing.” (James 1:17 CEV)

Yes! Life is always changing.

Robert Redford is looking older and playing older roles in movies. New heart-throbs are making the blockbusters. Music does not sound like it did in the sixties, nor do the stars dress like they did "in my day."

Children change so quickly we can almost see them growing. They learn new things every day. They are out of diapers, begin walking, and start speaking their mind in what seems to be only a few days.

Jobs change. Tasks that once required hours of manpower as well as years of study and experience can now be accomplished by pushing a button on the computer.

Opportunities change. Where we were once limited in our abilities to travel, to study, and to explore the world, we are now about to see the world and experience history from the convenience of an easy chair in our living room.

People change.

Relationships change.

We mature.

We age.

We develop new skills.

We acquire and learn new information.

We have mood swings.

We experience success, we have disappointments.

We eat, we sleep, we walk, we run, we come, we go, we get.

Life changes as relentlessly as the tides.

Life is always changing. As life continues to change, Chuck Swindoll's words on "Attitude" continue to echo in my head:

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on my life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company ... a church ... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past ... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the string we have, and that is our attitude ... I am convinced that life is ten percent what happens to me and ninety percent how I react to it. And so it is with you ... we are in charge of our attitudes."

How will I react to the changes I will face today? The best thing to do is to keep looking for Jesus in every circumstance and situation.

Yes, I realize that sometimes we find it difficult to recognize Jesus. Our busy schedules sometime prevent us from seeing Jesus. Our preoccupation with our occupation sometimes prevents us from seeing Jesus. Religion sometimes prevents us from seeing Jesus. Church sometimes prevents us from seeing Jesus. Disappointment keeps us from seeing Jesus. Anger keeps us from recognizing Jesus. An unforgiving spirit can keep us from seeing Jesus. Guilt may blind us from really seeing Jesus.

So Melva, What can we do?

Keep looking. Even though the disciples did not readily recognize Jesus after His resurrection, they did go to the tomb. Something compelled them to go even when they thought all hope was lost. When the news began to spread that He had risen, even though it did not make sense, they kept their hearts open and finally they all said, "We have seen the Lord!" With that, their lives were changed.

Keep looking. Keep hoping. Don't stop believing that what seems to be impossible may be possible. When you do, you will see Jesus, and others will see Jesus in you.

Here are two suggestions to try this week:

First, as you move through your week, look for people that God is using to accomplish His work. Tell them you noticed how God has used them. Thank them for being open to His leadership and willing to let Him use them. Especially thank them if the work that was done was for your good.

Second, let Him use you. Make yourself available to His direction. Put yourself in a position that will allow Him to shape you, train you, and direct you to the person He wants you to influence. Expect to be surprised. Be ready to be excited at what He can do with what little you have. It may not make the headlines of the local paper, or be the lead story on the evening news, but in one or two people's life it may be what gives them hope to take another step, try one more time, and live another day.

If you do find yourself feeling somewhat less than thrilled with your performance during the first six months of the year, maybe Paul's words from **Colossians 4** will be helpful to you:

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." (Colossians 4:2-6 NIV)

God uses people everyday to carry out His work. Let Him use you today.

“For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him.” (Philippians 2:13)

Make this statement your motto this week: “I know there will be changes that will occur this week. I don't know how I will react to those changes. I do know that life is always changing and how I react is my choice.”

Memory Text:

“For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him.” (Philippians 2:13)