

Monday - Lay Foundation,
Flag Week, 2013
10 inutes

INTRO

- Thanks for Invite.
- As prepared, realized that I love being with teenagers.
 - o MORE than I did when I was one. :)
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- Sorry for the whole health scare. Didn't mean to scare you, Ms. (Cassie) Love.
 - o "Tropical" is used for nice things
 - Tropical Snow ice cream
 - Tropical Paradise
 - Tropical Smoothie
 - Tropical Climate
 - Tropical Tan
 - BUT THERE'S ONE, NOT SO NICE...TROPICAL DISEASE!
 - I could do without that one.
 - Who's with me?
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- Got ten minutes, so here's the deal...
 - o God wants to change the way you think.
 - o AND how you act, but mostly, how you think.
 - Much of Christianity aims at changing your actions.
 - OK, fine, but main point here, TRANSFORM Your Minds...by changing the way you think.

STUPID EXAMPLE

- Ever been to Texas? Southern States? Texans think it's another country.
 - o Anyone got a great Southern Accent? _____
 - o OK, repeat after me...
 - How ya'll doin' today? (NOT seductive, how you doin'? ;))
 - "I'm happier than a fox hound in a chicken coup."
- o Turn to neighbor and talk southern. Just try.

POSSIBLY IMPORTANT POINT

- That was easy,
 - o I just changed your actions.

- Made you smile.
- Made you talk really weird.
- Made adults uncomfortable, etc.

- Question: Did that change the way you think?
 - Did that transform you? Why not?
 - Transformation, or changing the way you think is way harder.
 - Takes more time.
 - Your brain is soft (I've seen brains, they're soft)
 - BUT, those neurons are hardwired in, and they don't like to change.

Anyone Like to be Changed?

- Who likes to be changed?
 - Babies don't. ;)
 - Adults don't (Worked in nursing home. I know this).

- We typically like the way we think. That's why we think it.
 - Are we ok with God being brave enough to try to change us?
 - Will we allow him?

Sometimes, NEW DATA can help us change our mind.

- Examples...
- You should leave. No. The building is on fire. Oh, ok.
- You should learn this. No thanks. It will be on the test. Oh, ok.
- Will you marry me? No. But I love you. Oh, well then, ok.

- God wants to change your mind.
 - Not by force, but by love.
 - He loves us so much he communicates with us. He speaks.

- Wants to "TRANSFORM you into a NEW PERSON."
 - Greek, word for metamorphosis
 - Also used in re: transfiguration. He was changed.

- Changing Way you Think (Renewing the mind, Changing how you think.)
 - Greek: To renovate

BIG POINT: How Does He Transform?

- **By Changing the way we Think.**
 - o **How does He change the way we Think?**
 - **HE SPEAKS!!!!**
 - o He speaks. It's what he did at the beginning
 - To CREATE
 - It's what he's still doing.
- He gives us NEW information.
 - o HIS information.
- He SPEAKS. Amazing.

HOW DOES HE SPEAK?

With Authority -- **Matthew 7:28-29** “*He talks like one with real authority!*”

With Passion – **John 2:17**?

(after “clearing” the temple... “*passion for God’s house burns within him.*”

With comfort and assurance -- **Matthew 14:27** to scared disciples, while he was walking on the water. “*I’m here. Don’t be afraid.*” In Greek, “*the I AM is here. Don’t be afraid.*”

With Clarity – **John 4:28** – woman at well, “*He told me everything I ever did.*”

He Stirred Emotions -- **Luke 24:32** – road to Emmaus, “*didn’t our hearts feel strangely warmed when he was talking with?*”

With Power – **Revelation 1:9-15** – READ.

⁹ *I, John, am your brother and your partner in suffering and in God’s Kingdom and in the patient endurance to which Jesus calls us. I was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the word of God and for my testimony about Jesus.* ¹⁰ *It was the Lord’s Day, and I was worshiping in the Spirit.*¹¹ *Suddenly, I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet blast.*

¹¹ *It said, “Write in a book¹² everything you see, and send it to the seven churches in the cities of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.”*

¹² *When I turned to see who was speaking to me, I saw seven gold lampstands.* ¹³ *And standing in the middle of the lampstands was someone like the Son of Man.*¹⁴ *He was wearing a long robe with a gold sash across his chest.* ¹⁴ *His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow. And his eyes were like flames of fire.* ¹⁵ *His feet were like polished*

bronze refined in a furnace, and his voice thundered like mighty ocean waves.

John says, “When I heard this voice...I fell down like a dead man.”

LOGICAL RESPONSE TO HEARING HIS VOICE!

HE SPEAKS TO...

Lots and lots, but for purposes of Flag Week...

- Jesus speaks to YOU
 - What does he say to you?
 - Who does he say you are?
 - What does he think about you?
 - *Wednesday*
- Jesus speaks to Evil
 - When Jesus speaks to evil incarnate, what does He say?
 - We're not going to solve the question of Evil, but...
 - We ARE going to see what Jesus says to Evil. Buckle up.
 - *Thursday*
- Jesus speaks to Death
 - When Jesus speaks of life's greatest threat, what does he say?
 - What does he say when he talks death?
 - *Friday*

WRAP UP

God's not just interested in changing how you act.

- He wants to change the way you think.
- The question for you, Hope Students.... You want in?
- The question for you Flag Week, 2013...You want God to change the way you think?
 - You ok with that?
 - Bring your heart and your head, and “Let him” transform you by changing the way you think.
- See you on Wednesday! Go with God.



Discussion Questions:

- Why is it easier to change a person's actions than his or her thoughts?
- Who in our group is the best at "speaking Southern"?
- Can you think of two more (silly) examples of how new information can change the way you think? Jonathan mentioned "this will be on the test" and "the building is on fire." What are some other examples?
- What is something you're looking forward to about FLAG Week?
- If God could change one thing about the way you think, what would he change? (For example, would he change the way you think about yourself? Others? Your Future? His love?)