

## Week Three: March 11, 2020 – March 17, 2020



### HIS CHARACTER

I am becoming like Jesus  
in my behaviours, and character.

The Way of Jesus training aspires to establish healthy patterns of behaviour in the life of the disciple. Good behaviours oft repeated become habits. Good habits form the basis of character. But just behaving well enough and often enough for long enough is not the key to becoming like Jesus. We need a much deeper transformation which can only be the work of the Holy Spirit.

The New Testament word, transliterated as metamorphoó, is the root of the word used in the NT to describe what we call Jesus' transfiguration and the word used by Paul when he wrote, be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind." (Romans 12:2) This is the same word from which we get metamorphosis. The transformation of character that God has planned for us is like the butterfly (or moth) that breaks out from the tomb of the cocoon. This is surely God's work of recreation and he desires to do this in us.

The practice of Christian disciplines is not in any way a replacement for the transformative work of the Spirit. Rather, they are means that the Spirit can use to effect transformation in us. The Holy Spirit works in us to transform us into holy people of God. The true personal holiness that results is the fruit of the work of the Holy Spirit transforming us to become more and more like Jesus in our attitudes, behaviours and character.

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Aircraft are equipped with an Attitude Indicator which shows the pilot how the aircraft is oriented relative to the horizon. Believers have been given an Attitude Indicator as well. This is not a mechanical device but a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit who brings God's horizon into our view. Jesus' follower (and brother) James compared God's Word to a mirror (James 1:23). While a mirror reflects physical features, we understand James' point to be that God's Word reflects things like our attitudes, behaviours, and character. The Bible reveals the horizon is a record of divine self-revelation most fully revealed in the person of his son, Jesus. As we follow him, we will have in view the divine horizon by which our lives are to orient. How is your flight?

Read and reflect on the following passage. You can record your reflections on the next page.

Ezekiel 36:22-32

John 7:53 – 8:11

**Let's Get Personal:**

*It is not possible for us to walk The Way of Jesus except for the working of the Holy Spirit. What are some things you would like to have the Spirit transform in your attitudes, behaviours, and character? Tell Jesus and also tell a friend who is helping you become more like Jesus.*

## **My Reflections**

LISTEN – What did God say to me?

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TRUST – What do I have to believe in order to act on this?

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OBEY – What are some ways that I should act on this?

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We all have behaviours that might be appropriate at some times and places that would be totally inappropriate at other times and places. As you think about this you might want to reflect on how some behaviour that might have seemed to fit your life before you became a follower of Jesus just no longer fits. Yet, it is not only our behaviour that is to change. God's intention is to transform our attitudes and character as well. While we might think our behaviours are subject to our own decisions. it is easily recognized that a change of attitudes and character really requires the work of the Holy Spirit.

Read and reflect on the following passage. You can record your reflections on the next page.

Exodus 16:1-8

Colossians 1:15-23

**Let's Get Personal:**

*You probably have seen some people who have been powerfully transformed by Jesus. You might have also seen some people who appear to be living the Christian life in their own ability and think it is about keeping a behaviour code.*

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It is true that each of us have inherited traits. It is interesting to see this in extended family members of Yet, it is equally true that our emotional profile has also been powerfully shaped by the people who share life space with us. Regardless where we might come down on this nature / nurture debate of psychology, all of us have observed that we can be affected by the company we keep. We certainly believe this to be the case with our children. So, the decision that we have in our choice of role model is an extremely important one.

As you may anticipate in a study that is entitled *The Way of Jesus*, the strong recommendation is to choose Jesus as that role model. The early Jesus follower that we know as the Apostle Paul understood this well and invited others to follow after him even as he followed after Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:1)

Read and reflect on the following passage. You can record your reflections on the next page.

**Let's Get Personal:**

*The Spirit transforms Those regrets often include being a poor example for others. If you have those regrets and if it is possible you may want to make opportunity to share with those people about the transformation that is occurring in your life.*

Exodus 16:9-21

Ephesians 2:11-22

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## WEEK THREE: DAY 4

March 14, 2020



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It doesn't seem to be a mere stereotype to say that the topic of discussion easily turns to work in a gathering of men. Yet, for the purpose of investigating character it might be of greater interest if people would talk about what they like to do on their days off. Instead of interrogating others on this we might want to look at ourselves and think about what our leisure activity shows about our character. Do we expend our leisure time on ourselves or do we invest it in others?

Read and reflect on the following passages. You can record your reflections on the next page.

Exodus 16:27-35

John 4:1-6

#### **Let's Get Personal:**

*When you serve others do you find the greatest satisfaction in gaining recognition for that service or in knowing that you have served in an important way that might not ever receive public recognition? What does that say about your character?*



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## **The Anchor for this Week**

If you want to see the non-abbreviated listing of the 10 Commandments you can look in Exodus 20. For the purpose of the Way of Jesus training they have been abbreviated to make it a little easier to memorize. If you haven't memorized them already, see how you can do by the end of today.

## **The Ten Commandments Abbreviated**

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy...Six days you shall labor and do all your work,
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony.
10. You shall not covet

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Even though we want to be known as people of good character we don't always like what it takes to produce that good character. The apostle Paul wrote that perseverance is what produces character. If this sounds like a challenge, it was probably intended to suggest that. And, as if this isn't bad enough, we are reminded that it is suffering that produces perseverance (Romans 5:3-4). The idea that adversity is character building is not always comforting. Consider your present situation and thank God if he is building your character. Whatever our circumstance we need to be more like Jesus.

Read and reflect on the following passages. You can record your reflections on the next page.

Genesis 24:1-27

2 John 1:1-13

**Let's Get Personal:**

*When you serve others do you find the greatest satisfaction in gaining recognition for that service or in knowing that you have served in an important way that might not ever receive public recognition? What does that say about your character?*

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History reflects the impact of people with good character and those with bad. These accounts are the stories of fame and infamy. Today is St. Patrick's Day and tribute to this man has become a widespread day of celebration that, even though focused more on things green than the character of this follower of Jesus, can still be rescued as a showcase for the impact of a transformed character. The enduring legacy of Patrick is the fruit of the transforming power of the Spirit.

Read and reflect on the following passages. You can record your reflections on the next page.

Gen 29:1-14

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

**Let's Get Personal:**

*When you serve others do you find the greatest satisfaction in gaining recognition for that service or in knowing that you have served in an important way that might not ever receive public recognition? What does that say about your character?*

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