

I Want To Be Better

"In Me"

4/23/17

-Change For A Dollar

-Thank you Jason and Kristen

-Change For A Dollar reveal.

-We know that you would like to see your grandparents and extended family this summer.

-Through C4AD, we are going to be covering the transportation expenses for you.

-Also, we know that you have really wanted to have a family portrait done.

-Chuck and Linda Denner have agreed to do that for you.

-Also, since you head up the respite ministry in our church for adoptive/fc parents

-We wanted to be able to give you a respite—a night out on us.

-The generosity doesn't just end there.

-*If you are a foster care or adoptive care parents in our church, would you please stand?

-Also making a family portrait available to you (Chuck and Linda Denner)

-And a night out on us.

-Announce:

(1) Volunteer Appreciating Slideshow for Easter Set Up

-Stand and recognize

-Some volunteered over 40 hours to make things happen

-We are so appreciative

(2) We are working on a plan to reconfigure the gym like it was on Easter

-Every Sunday.

-So that it's easy to set up and take down.

(3) One Verse Campaign—so far we are at \$20k

-New Series starting this week "I want to be better."

-Based off of the #1 New Year's Resolution for 2017 (I want to be a better person)

-Think about that.

-That statement is so telling.

-It means that there is some haunting idea or suspicion that life is not turning out the way they have envisioned it and they don't know why.

-It means that people know or can sense that something within them is not right or is lacking in some way.

-It means that people are finally willing to admit that they are struggling, or there is some kind of deficiency or they are not measuring up in some way in their life.

-“I Want To Be A Better Person”

- Maybe it's in their marriage?
- Or with their Morals and bad choices?
- In how they treat people?
- In their parenting?
- In dealing with their past?
- As a dad or as a man?
- As a mom?
- As an employee or employer?
- Or just kinder, nicer, more loving?
- Better at handling my addiction?
- Better at keeping promises?
- Or maybe better at connecting with God?

-Look at this statement a little closer:

-“I Want”

- There is a deep desire, a deep longing for something to change.

-“to be a Better”

- To do things differently
- To move UP from where I currently am.

-“Person”

- This deals with character issues.
- This is the department of who I really am.
- “I want to be better within me.”

-What keeps us from being better? 5 things:

(1) Wrong Assumptions About Life

- The World Revolves Around Me.
- Victim mentality
- Feelings of Entitlement

(2) Lack of Knowledge

- Not having the right information or not knowing where to find it.
- Under resourced.
- Not that you don't want to be better but you don't know how to be better.

(3) Pride

- The understanding that you've got things under control and you don't need any help.
-“I can do it.” “I can figure it out.” “I can make it happen.”

-Do you know what the Bible says about Pride?

-James 4:6b (ESV) But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

-He actually works against the proud.

(4) **Lack of Accountability**

- Unwilling to let people in
- To let people know.
- Suffering in isolation while no one knows.

(5) **Spiritual Blindness**

- The belief that you are on your own in this journey.
- Never stopping to contemplate God in the grand equation or asking for His help.

-Where do you start on the journey to being better?

-Life changing principle:

-DIE to LIVE

-Key principle in life...in your job, in your marriage, in your parenting...in beginning a relationship with God.

-Scripture makes this very clear.

-John 12:24 (NLT) I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels--a plentiful harvest of new lives.

-Matthew 16:25 (NIV) For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

-Let's talk about what it means to **DIE**

- Sounds scary but it's actually very freeing.
- It means that in your relationships, you have to die a little bit in order for them to work. (Die to your selfishness, your way of doing things, your perspective only).

-It's going to take 2 critical things for DEATH to become a reality in your life.

(1) **Humility**

- You will never get better until you admit that you need help.
- That you don't have the answers or that you don't have it all figured out.

-1 Peter 5:6 (NIV) Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

- This is how salvation is found. (You humbly ask for it).
- Until you are willing to admit you can't meet the standard that God requires and admit to God, "I can't" (DIE) you will never experience the eternal life that God freely offers.

(2) **Execution**

- Forgoing personal happiness in order to make someone else happy.
- Putting your needs UNDER someone else's needs.

-Dying a little in those moments (PRIDE, HOW YOU THINK THINGS SHOULD BE DONE) so that you can experience LIFE later on.

-Example in marriage:

-Love and Respect (which comes first?)

-In order to receive love, you give respect. For respect, you give love.

-DIE: Willing to be the first one to sacrifice.

-Humility and Execution

-Sound painful. Sound difficult. Sound hard.

-They are until you realize what's waiting on the other side.

-Die to...

-LIVE

-Success, fulfillment, victory, accomplishment, salvation.

-As you parent, in marriage, in your relationships, in your past, in your work (next)

-DIE to LIVE

-Is the principle that you have to understand and put into practice.

-Pray