

Our Role in a Changing World

It is human nature to resist change. It may be our struggle to manage things as they are now, and fear things will get worse. Change is a part of life. Seasons change. We welcome some seasons more than others. People pass away, illness strikes and accidents happen. The boss at work or the pastor of our church leaves, creating a time of uncertainty. We fear the unknown.



Just think how it is for Jesus. Jesus was present before the world was formed. He orchestrated the creation of the mountains and seas and the entire creation story. He watched Adam and Eve change the relationship of people with God, through their disobedience. Time and time again, Jesus witnessed mankind turning against God. He has seen it all. Jesus came to earth to live among us and to be an instrument of change. He taught us how to live and provided the way to salvation. He gave us the promise of a new heaven and a new earth. Talk about change! If we are afraid of change in this world, we can draw comfort from knowing that Jesus will be with us through it all.

Do you remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? Those who cheered him on anticipated that He would overthrow the Roman oppressors. They wanted Jesus to change the world, but according to their agenda. Jesus' mission was much different. They didn't understand that Jesus' Kingdom is not of this world. His mission – then and now -- was to give us a pathway to heaven. He loves us and walks beside us, especially during the difficult times of our lives. He strengthens us to deal with our issues. He offers to shoulder our burdens so we can be free of the penalty of sin. This all leads up to His goal for us: He wants us to believe in Him so we can be saved and enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

He helps us on our daily walk. We go to the Lord in prayer and draw on His strength to get us through difficult situations. We know He will never leave us or forsake us. *As for me, I call to God, and the LORD saves me. Evening, morning, and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice. He rescues me unharmed from the battle waged against me, even though many oppose me (Psalm 55:16-18).*

We can turn off the nightly news, but events still happen. We can't change the events of this world, but we can change how we overcome the hopelessness around us and find our hope in Jesus Christ. We can be the light of Christ for those around us to see. We can be mission-focused on sharing the gospel with those who have not heard it. We can enrich the lives of people through our charitable efforts, helping the poor, and pointing to Jesus as the reason for our kindness and compassion. We can be forgiving of those who wronged us, because He first forgave us. In effect, we can be a catalyst to changing our part of the world to align with God's will.



While change may cause the fear of an uncertain future, we can be absolutely certain that Jesus will reign in Heaven, where and when there is no more death, mourning, or pain. *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Revelation 21:3-4).* That is a change for the better.

Question: How do you seek to change the world around you?

Prayer: Dear Lord. Change is difficult when it disrupts the world as we know it. We seek the change that grows the Kingdom of God. Amen.