

Intro: This morning we are going to finish exploring the Mission Statement of RTBC. Lets see how doing!

Mission Statement: “RTBC is REAL PEOPLE with REAL FAITH, building REAL COMMUNITY in order to TRANSFORM our world for Jesus Christ.” (What does it mean when we say we want to TRANSFORM)

At RTBC we believe that being part of the church of Jesus Christ means that we are contributors and not consumers. We are called to make a positive spiritual impact on the world in which we live. God has called us to Himself not just to bless us, but to bless others through us. He gives us all we need and more so that His overflowing grace, truth, and love in our will transform our world. Our world is as small as our family, our neighborhood, and our job, and as large as the furthest nation of the world that has yet to experience the love of the God we know and serve.

If you take that and reduce it to its essence, what we are saying is we are called to make a spiritual difference! How do you actually DO THAT in reality? What does it mean in practical day to day actions? TRANSFORM?

1. Transformation Begins With Self.

John 1:35-40

The first reality of transformation is that you CANNOT take people where you have not been. It simply isn't possible in the spiritual life to say to someone, “You go there...” and expect that they will be able to realistically understand what needs to be changed...and work through that process alone. YOU must have covered the ground first. And THAT is what we see taking place in the life of Andrew. One of the 12 Jesus called to Himself. Andrew is a wonderful case study of transformation that begins with self...and then moves further and further out to others.

- Andrew first met Jesus personally in John 1 through the ministry of John the Baptist.
- Andrew was drawn to John...spiritually hungry...and when Jesus came on the scene, heard John's testimony
- Andrew then began to FOLLOW Jesus...went and spent a day with him. He became convinced Jesus Messiah
- **Messiah:** Every faithful Jew was looking for the Promised One from God, save them from their sins!
- Andrew was so transformed by his time with Jesus that almost every time we see him in bible: BRINGING!
- What do we mean when we say Andrew was TRANSFORMED? From What...To What?

2 Cor 5:17: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

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| Eph 2:1-10 | <i>Were Spiritually Dead:</i> | <i>Now Transformed to Be Spiritually Alive!</i> |
| | <i>Were walking in disobedience</i> | <i>Now walking in obedience to God</i> |
| | <i>Were Not a People</i> | <i>Now people of God</i> |
| | <i>Lost in Sin</i> | <i>Now Alive in Christ</i> |
| | <i>Serving Ourselves</i> | <i>Now Serving God and Others!</i> |

When Andrew met Jesus...He was TRANSFORMED...Everything Changed! He found the desire of His heart met in Jesus His spiritual life took an entirely new trajectory. Instead of separation from God for eternity...Child of God forever!

BEFORE YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR WORLD FOR JESUS...YOU MUST FIRST BE CHANGED BY JESUS!

2. Transformation Grows When You Share With Those Closest To You.

John 1:41-42

After meeting Jesus and being changed himself, the VERY FIRST thing Andrew did was find his brother and tell him about Jesus. He doesn't pull any punches. “We have found the Messiah!” Now, hit the pause button with me. Think about it...Peter is one of those “easily approachable” people, right? Softspoken, gentle, not given to strong opinions or actions. He was probably voted “most liked” in HS! NO! Peter was a hard sell: Even w/Jesus he was hard

Despite that...Andrew went to Peter...

- Peter was FIRST: When you love someone, you share Jesus with them...Even if hard!
- Peter was TOLD: It's important to live before them...also important to put words to WHY
- Peter was BROUGHT: Brought: Lit = *to lead toward*: (Carries connotation of resistance)
- Peter was SEEN: Jesus Looked at Him: Lit = *to gaze upon, to discern, to know*

Applic: In the past few years everything has changed: It used to be people came to faith with friend/family 90% That is now down to 60-70% Here is the interesting part...It is STILL a one on one conversation with someone they trust...and it is almost NEVER a memorized presentation! (4 Spiritual Laws, EE, Romans Road) It is an open, honest conversation that looks like what Andrew had with Peter! The single most important way to share faith is those close

Other very significant change: People are coming to faith with Staff! Pastors, Admin, Voluntary ministry leaders. Used to be like 3-5% Now its 17 to 20! Their faith journey begins with a “Halfway event”, like movie night, Ashley's closet, food pantry...and as they see and experience the reality of what knowing and following Jesus is all about...they naturally either come along and say, I'm ready to fully invest...or they simply say...“It's not for me.”

That leads to the third step of transformation.

3. Transformation Continues Forward When God Sends Someone To Us!

John 12:20-26

Andrew is still in the mix...and I want you to notice the ever growing concentric circles of influence that surround him Transformation starts with him personally, extends to his brother Peter, and now grows beyond his personal circle to those that God sends to him. The further we get in the Gospels the greater his influence becomes. Why?

SLIDE: CIRCLES OF TRANSFORMATION

- Because Andrew has something to share! He follows Jesus, walks with him, faithful to bring family
- In addition, Andrew was faithful! in Jn 6 to bring the boy with loaves and fish! So...God gives him more!
- God entrusts Andrew with more! Biblical principle: *If faithful with small things, trusted with bigger* Lk 16:10
- Andrew is Willing to continue to bring people to Jesus!

Now, there are some Greeks that have come to Jerusalem for Passover: People from all over world!

Not sure who they were: 1. Jews other nations speak Greek, 2. Gentile converts 3. Gentiles interested

Whoever they were...they wanted to see Jesus: Who go to? Philip...to Andrew: Greek Names: Past History

Whoever they were...the process of Transformation is spreading beyond the Jewish nation!

Applic: Are you faithful enough that God will send others to YOU?

- a. Have you had spiritual conversations with people in your life
- b. Are you ready to explain WHY you have faith: 1Pet 3:15 *"Always be ready to give a reason for your hope"*
- c. Are you praying God will entrust some hungry hearts to you...so you can show them the way!
- d. Are you anticipating...looking for...is your spiritual radar up...expecting God to send people to you!

Illus: That is the pattern of Andrew's life! First Peter; Then the Boy with fish and loaves; Then Greeks!

I was having a conversation with someone this week: Said, *"I never know what to say,"*

Told a story of someone talking with about spiritual things: Very eclectic: Spiritual, not Biblical

Quoted PART of a verse..."When two or three are gathered:" THEY ADDED "Yeah...IN JESUS NAME!"

I was like..that was PERFECT! Said EXACTLY what needed to be said!

Went on to say...you are picking and choosing...NO...Take all of the bible...Can't make God what YOU want!

4. Transformation Is Fully Operational When We Are Going To The Community!

Acts 17:1-9

In this passage we move from Andrew to Paul. Paul and Silas are on a missionary trip, traveling to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with places that have yet to hear the Good News. Notice a couple of things here that are very important.

- They were initiating, not responding: No longer waiting for God to send...they are going! Mt 28:19-20
- Hungry Hearts! Began in the Synagogue: People that already believed in God...looking for Messiah
- Focus on Jesus! Paul's message was VERY clear! (*Jesus is the Christ! Death, Burial, Resurrection, Faith*)
- The response was mixed! Not all positive! Yes...some believed...but some so upset they got arrested!
- The message was TRANSFORMATIONAL for everyone! "Turned world upside down" (RIGHT SIDE UP!)
- Success is measured by Faithfulness to proclaim...not the response!

Yes we want positive response...But keep in mind...Jesus didn't get 100%, John Baptist Didn't Paul Didn't

You and I will not either! The BEST we can do is be faithful to preach and teach the message...

And leave the RESULTS in the hands of God!

CONCL: You hear all of that and you say to me: "Pastor...that's awesome...I want to be a part..but how?"

1. Have you been personally Transformed? Have you trusted Jesus yourself? Have new life in Him? You can't take people where you haven't gone... ARE YOU CURRENTLY BEING TRANSFORMED? TODAY? If you have never accepted Christ...Do that today!
2. Who in YOUR life needs you to introduce them to Jesus? Who do you need to tell: Come look and see! Start planning and praying NOW for some of our "halfway events!"
Movie nights: Worship Event: Christmas Eve Food Pantry Ashley's
3. Look around...Pay attention: Be ready for God to send someone to YOU!
Be Praying for God to send someone to you! Every night Darlene and I pray together for that...Join us!
4. Be willing to go! Opportunities: Ashley's Closet, Trip to Mexico this coming summer: We are going to build a church! Waiting now to see what might be needed in Cuba: I have seen awful pictures