



“Becoming Like Jesus” Pastor Notes Week 4

“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.” -Romans 8:29 (NIV)

“Pre-destination means that our God fashioned destiny is that we be conformed to the image of His son.”

“For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to Him – and He knew who would – should become like His Son. . .” -Romans 8:29 TLB

“In all things God works for the good for those who love Him, who have been called according to His purposes”
-Romans 8:28 NIV

God often uses three common struggles of humanity to transform us into the likeness of Jesus.

1. Trouble / God often uses trouble to teach us to trust Him.

“Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” -John 16:33b NIV

“...trouble produces patience, and patience produces character, and character produces hope”
-Romans 5:3b -4

“The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes Me.”
-Mark 14:34 GNT

“‘Father’ He said, ‘everything is possible for You. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet, I want Your will, not Mine!’”
-Mark 14:36 NLT.

2. Temptations / God uses our temptations to teach us to obey Him.

“When tempted no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone...”
-James 1:13 NIV

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.”
-Hebrews 4:15 NIV

- Remember, it is not a sin to be tempted.
- Everyone is tempted in the same ways.

“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted

beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”
-1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV

Jesus said “Get out of here, Satan’ Jesus told him. ‘The scriptures say, worship only the Lord God. Obey only Him’.
-Matthew 4:10 LB

3. Trespasses / God uses trespasses to teach us to forgive.

“People walked by and insulted Jesus and shook their heads, saying, “You said you could destroy the Temple and build it again in three days. So save yourself! Come down from that cross if you are really the Son of God!” The leading priests, the teachers of the law, and the Jewish elders were also making fun of Jesus. They said, “He saved others, but he can’t save himself! He says he is the king of Israel! If he is the king, let him come down now from the cross. Then we will believe in him. He trusts in God, so let God save him now, if God really wants him. He himself said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” And in the same way, the robbers who were being crucified beside Jesus also insulted him.”
-Matthew 27:39-44 NCV

“Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing.’ -Luke 23:33 NIV

Two tips for when people harm you intentionally or unintentionally.

• Remember that God has forgiven you.

“Forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ”
-Ephesians 4:32.

• Remember God never wastes a hurt.

“You meant to hurt me, but God turned your evil into good to save the lives of many people, which is being done”
-Genesis 50:20 NCV

“Faith in God offers no assurance against tragedy, but in every case suffering offers an opportunity for us to display God’s work”. -Philip Yancy Book: *Where is God When It Hurts?*

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.”
-Philippians 2:5 NIV





"Becoming Like Jesus" Small Group Discussion Week 4

The third LifeDefining purpose is you were created to become like Jesus Christ.

Discuss Purpose # 3 within the context of these next verses.

"Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us." -Genesis 1:26a NLT

"Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are His dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God." -Ephesians 5:1-2 NLT

God often uses three common struggles of humanity to transform us into the likeness of Jesus.

1. Trouble 2. Temptation 3. Trespasses

God uses trouble to teach us to trust Him.

- Jesus trusted God in the most difficult time in His life. (Crucifixion)

Discuss how troubles and difficulty are instrumental in helping you trust God in the way Jesus trusted God.

"... trouble produces patience, and patience produces character, and character produces hope".
-Romans 5:3b – 4 NCV

God uses temptations to teach us to obey Him. (God does not tempt us. James 1:13)

- Jesus was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights.

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. -Hebrews 4:15 NIV

Discuss how temptations may have been instrumental in teaching you obedience in the way Jesus obeyed His Father in heaven.

God uses trespasses to help us forgive each other.

- Jesus forgave us of our trespasses.

"Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." -Luke 23:34 NIV

"Forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ" -Ephesians. 4:32

Discuss how a trespass against you taught you to forgive like Jesus forgives.

- Always remember, God has forgiven you.

Discuss this quote. "Faith in God offers no assurance against tragedy, but in every case suffering offers an opportunity for us to display God's work". -Philip Yancy

- Always remember God never wastes a hurt.

