



SEEING MYSELF THROUGH GOD'S EYES

Part 7: Pinocchio's Transformation

APPETIZER – Firstfruits

Christ has indeed been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
~ The Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 15:20)

He chose to give us birth through the word of truth,
that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.
~ James the brother of Jesus (James 1:18)

Jesus 2.0 (firstfruits of) → Humanity 2.0 (firstfruits of) → Universe 2.0

DINE IN – Why the Kingdom is Better than the Garden

Romans 8:18-23
Revelation 21:1-5

Why is the Kingdom better than the Garden?

- Because we end up in a city. (21:2; 22:2, 14)
- Because there is no serpent. (20:10)
- Because we will be diversity in harmony. (22:2)
- Because we will know our story, our value, our place, the extent of God's love and our blessing. (22:3-4)
- Because we are there by choice. (22:14-15, 17)

TAKE OUT – So What?

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world
as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.
~ Jesus (Matthew 24:14)

The Gospel is the Good News that God has come to us through Christ to...

- SHOW US his love
- SAVE US from sin
- SHAPE US like him
- SHUT DOWN religion

SET UP His Kingdom

PARTING SHOT – Living in the Kingdom NOW

The kingdom of God is not coming with something observable;
no one will say, 'Look here!' or 'There!'
For you see, the kingdom of God is among you.
~ Jesus (Luke 17:20-21)



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Home Church Questions...

BEFORE YOU COME...

If possible, get a Bible and become familiar with **Romans 8:18-39**. It's a long passage, so it will be helpful to come to home church having read it and given it some thought. Write down observations, lessons, and questions.

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic / Starting Conversations]

1. When you think about nature, do you primarily think of the positive (beauty, creativity, functionality) or the negative (bugs, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, etc.)? Whichever you primarily think about, do you ever dwell on the other aspect of nature? When? Why? What triggers it?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

2. Take a moment to look back over your teaching notes. What idea or unanswered question stands out to you from Sunday's message?
3. Read **Romans 8:18-39**.
 - a. What verse or phrase stands out to you the most? Why?
 - b. Where do you see creation experiencing "bondage to decay"? What do you think it will look like for creation to be "liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God"?
 - c. What do you envision it will be like for you, for all of us, to experience "the redemption of your bodies"?
 - d. Have you ever been consciously aware of the "wordless groans" of the Spirit within you? Some Christians see this as a reference to the spiritual gift of tongues. What about **verse 26** supports or contradicts that theory?
 - e. What effect does the truth of **verse 28** have on you when you are hurting? Encouragement (feeling like it's going to be ok)? Optimism (looking for the solution)? No effect (you don't think about it)? Other?
 - f. According to **verse 29**, what is God's goal for your life? What progress toward this goal have you seen in your life this past week?
 - g. The last 9 verses of **Romans 8** are designed to remind us of God's love and encourage us to live loved. Have someone read them again aloud, and let the reality of being precious to God sink in. Afterward, talk about any thoughts that stand out to you.

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together]

4. On a scale of 1 to 10, how loved by God do you feel these days? Why do you think that is? Talk about it in terms of this past week of your life.
5. On a scale of 1 to 10, how well do you help others see God's love for them? Why do you think that is? Talk about it in terms of this past week of your life.
6. Pray, and begin by asking the Spirit to help you become aware of his praying along with you, interceding for you.

Sunday, May 19/26, 2013 | Bruxy Cavey
#TMHWhoAmI

Quotes...

We cannot consistently behave in ways that are different from what we believe about ourselves.

~ Kenneth Boa, *Conformed to His Image*

We live out who we believe we are.

~ Eric Geiger, *Identity*

When we pray, "thy kingdom come" we are not making a request. We are taking a vow. We are pledging our willingness to allow God's kingdom to be established in and through us.

~ James Mulholland, *Praying Like Jesus*

Christians look forward to judgment day. When it takes place, whenever it happens, we will know once and for all exactly who we are. In that moment of divine judgment, all pride will disappear and so will all false modesty. We will see ourselves as God sees us.

~ Douglas Jacobsen & Rodney J. Sawatsky, *Gracious Christianity*

**Now I know in part, but then I will know fully,
even as I am fully known.**

~ The Apostle Paul

I am coming soon.

~ Jesus