

January 7/8 | January 14/15 | January 21/22

THE NEW YOU TRANSLATION

What's your life saying?



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PART ONE 7/8 JANUARY 2017

INTRODUCTION

Each and every single one of us has, and will leave an impression on people that we have or will meet in the future. Hence, the life we live does present a message to others around, be it good or bad, knowing or unknowingly, whether we want to or not. Hence this first series of 2017 allows us the opportunity to reflect and take stock of who we are becoming as a person, but more importantly, whether we are becoming the Christ-like person God would want us to be.

In part 1, we are called to examine ourselves to see the person we are becoming (character-wise), by checking our blind spots (things others can see easily about us, but may not be easily obvious to us), but also to ask God to show us the person we are becoming.

In summary,

- When people read your message, they shouldn't be left guessing.
- To know what your message reveals, you have to ask how your readers feel.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some things that you are thankful to God for in 2016? Also, what are some things that you are looking forward to in 2017? (can be either doing goals, and/or being goals)
2. Each of our lives does bring across a message to the people in our world.
 - a. What are some areas where you think you have brought a positive message to people in your world?
 - b. Likewise, what areas of your life do you feel that you have not brought a positive message to the people around you?
3. Do a study on Matthew 5:13-16. You can use the inductive bible study method below as a guide.
 - i. Posture your heart. Spend some time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to be your teacher. Open your heart to the Lord to speak to you.
 - ii. Read the passage aloud
 - iii. Ask some context questions of the passage:

- What sort of writing is this? (a letter, a poem, a narrative etc?)
 - Are there any clues about the circumstances under which it was written?
 - What has happened so far in this particular book of the Bible?
- iv. Some observation questions of the passage:
- Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the passage?
 - What is the main point or points?
 - What surprises are there?
 - What are the key words? What words or ideas are repeated?
- v. Some meaning questions of the text:
- How does this passage relate to other parts of the book?
 - How does the passage relate to Jesus?
 - What does this teach us about God?
 - How could we sum up the meaning of this passage in our own words?
- vi. Some application questions of the passage:
- How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
 - Is there some attitude I need to change?
 - How does this passage call on me to change the way I live?
4. This week, would you be bold to ask somebody how they feel being around you? Ask 2 or three people in different spheres of your life to share honestly, “What is it like being on the other side of me?” Or what is it like being with me? Have an open heart to receive feedback.

Based on your personal reflection and feedback from others you have asked, what is God saying to you today about the following:

- a. How He feels about you as a person?
- b. Areas in your life that you should keep up and continue?
- c. Areas in life that need to be changed with His help?
- d. The next steps He would want you to take to becoming more Christ-like?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO

Character isn't something that can be changed in a day. What matters is that we don't give up, but instead realize that we need God's help and the community around us to spur us on in the journey of becoming Christ-like.

Spend some time sharing one or two insights you might have had in the message, but also praying for each other in a group.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” ~ Matthew 5:14-16 (ESV)