SERMON: I Once Was Blind

Series: People of the Once Was

Pastor John Tiernan

January 3, 2016

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Thinking back on this week’s sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. John began his sermon asking, “Is real change possible?” and he talked about our love/hate relationship with both light and dark. Read **John 3:19-20**. Were you living like this at any time in your life? Are you still? Read **Isaiah 9:2** and **John 8:12**. What areas in your life are still dark and need the light of He who came to bring us life? Why do we resist the light?
3. John’s big idea was “The light of Christ transforms us.” How do you feel about being transformed? Did Christ transform you in the past? Are you in the midst of it now? Do you see a need for it in your future? Is transformation easy? Exhausting? Do you want more of it or do you need a break? Do you look forward to being challenged on a Sunday morning and in Life group or are you resisting and avoiding?
4. Read **Romans 12:1-2**, **Galatians 4:16-26**, **Ephesians 4:22-24.** How are we transformed? What characterizes a transformed life?
5. John preached from **John 9** about a blind man whom Jesus healed. He said that this story shows us how the light of Christ transforms:
   1. HOW WE SEE (**John 9:5, 35-39**)- how we see God and how we see ourselves. Then we can stop living in deception and start living in the truth.
   2. HOW WE HEAL (**John 9:6-7, 25; Isaiah 53:4-5, Romans 8:11**)- not only physically, but spiritually. “Sin is the disease that cripples all of us.”
6. Challenge: 1-Stop hiding! Tell someone what you are struggling with (**James 5:16**)

2- Start shining! Don’t pretend to be perfect, point others to the power of Christ’s transforming power in your life (**John 3:21**). Tell someone your story!

1. Optional: Sing *Amazing Grace* together as a small group

**Next Steps:** Do you know the transforming power of Jesus as Savior in your life?

Are you ready to publically declare your faith through baptism on January 17?

**Prayer Thought:** Praise the Lord for His work on the cross, for His transforming power, that He loves us enough to not leave us as we are. Confess the areas of darkness in your life, acknowledging that you need more of Him. Thank Him that transformation is a journey that He walks with us with love, mercy and grace. Pray for others in your life who are blinded by darkness and need the Light of Life.