

SUNDAY 05<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023.

- TRANSITION: PART 3
- **‘TRANSFORMED LIFE’**
- ROMANS 12:

- Last time, through the book of Deuteronomy, we saw that Moses was 120 years old, and the promised land lay ahead. He had led the Israelites out of captivity from Egypt and through the wilderness for 40 years, he gathered the Israelites to share what seemed like his final speech because he knew he will not see the promised land.

- **‘The next steps’** after his speech were going to be very crucial for the nation of Israel.
- Life in Egypt was not easy, the ancient Egyptians worshipped over 1,400 different gods and goddesses in their shrines, temples, and homes. These deities were the centre of a religion lasting over three thousand years!



- Each deity was responsible for a certain part of daily life or the world around the Egyptians. Keeping all these gods and goddesses happy was hard work and required daily rituals to be performed in temples across Egypt.

- Food, water, incense, and precious materials would be offered to these deities in their temples everyday by groups of priests acting on behalf of the Pharaoh. Sometimes, even Pharaoh would be worshipped as a god in their own right.

- According to the book of Joshua, some of the Israelites had begun to worship the gods of Egypt (Joshua 24:14). They had been so corrupted by Egypt's religion that they no longer even knew who the true God was (Exodus 3:13). That generation was at a place of no repair.



- God's desire was to see a transformed Israel, so God delivered the Israelites out of Egypt and offered a process that will see this work of transformation take place.
- Listen to what God told them in following verses.

## • **Deuteronomy 5:6-10**

- 6 “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 7 “You shall have no other gods before me. 8 “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 9 You shall not bow down to them or worship them.



For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 10 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

*(Deuteronomy 5:6-10)*

- **Romans 12:1-2**

- Therefore, I urge you, brothers, and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

- 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- (*Romans 12:1-2*)



- **“A living sacrifice”** (v. 1b). Torah law required Jews to observe a complex system of animal sacrifices to atone for sin and to remind the people of the significance of their sins. Only animals without blemish were acceptable offerings (*Leviticus 23:18*).

- The Christians in Rome to whom Paul was writing this letter were mostly Gentiles, I assume they felt no obligation to offer animal sacrifices. Paul says, however, that they had a sacrificial obligation that, in fact, surpasses that of the animal sacrifices required by Torah law.

- Christians are not allowed to substitute an animal's life for their own but are instead required to sacrifice their own lives. The requirement, however, is no longer ritual slaughter, but is instead the presentation of the living person to God, a life dedicated to the service of God.



- A life committed to doing God's will, a life lived in faith and lived out in faithfulness. As Christians, we are to present our lives for God's purposes not just on Sundays, but every day. There is no moment or circumstance in which the obligation does not apply.

- The slaughter of the animal reminded the person that, apart from the grace of God, it would be his/her life required on the altar. Now Paul tells Roman Christians that it is indeed their lives that are required, but not on the temple altar.

- Instead, they are to offer themselves as living sacrifices. Such sacrifices are holy and pleasing to God, even as animal sacrifices, offered in the right spirit, were holy and pleasing to God. Living sacrifices are holy in that they represent lives lived in accordance with the will of God.



**1) So, we can live transformed life in this sinful world by offering our lives as a living sacrifice. (*Romans 12:1*)**

a) The essence of this idea of sacrifice is that we are to be willing to offer ourselves to God. The truest sacrifice we can make is to live according to His purposes for our lives.

b) Paul says that presenting your body as a living and holy sacrifice is your “spiritual act of worship”.

c) God is inviting us to die to self and live for Him, this is not easy but it's possible, because God expects us to live for Him.

d) We are to give our entire being, all our heart, mind and soul, all of our talents, all of our energy, and all of our strength to serve Him.



## **2) We can live Transformed life when our mind and thinking begin to be more like Christ.**

a) The work of transformation is to make us more like Christ.

- Apostle Paul said: *“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness, from one degree of glory to another.” (2 Corinthians 3:18)*



b) You start to approve and desire the will of God and not yours.

c) Then you get to understand that God's will is what you need because its better for yours.

**3) We can live transformed life when we adopt the character of Christ.**

a) It is important for us to make a general statement, as the apostle John does in 1 John 2:6: *“he who says he abides in Christ ought to walk in the same way as he walked.”* In other words, if we claim to be a Christian, we must be Christlike.

b) Think of Apostle Paul, God transformed the heart that lacked compassion to one that loved people including Gentiles.

c) God can transform anyone into a new person.



# Conclusion:

- Want to finish with this words from Genesis 26:12–33, Genesis tells a contentious story of wells during a time of famine, when God commands Isaac to remain in the land of his father, Abraham, and dig for water. The land is blessed because of a promise that God made to Abraham and Isaac is, therefore, blessed in his gritty task

- Abraham dug and defended wells that flourished—and his enemies despised it. When Abraham died, the care of the wells passed away with him. The Sea People from that land elbowed in and stopped up those wells, destroying the life-giving power. Years later Isaac inherited the challenge to restore and renovate the wells.



- When he did, he too faced opposition from the Philistines. They drove him away from his wells. So, Isaac directed his community toward the difficult task of re-digging Abraham's wells. Once again, the Lord fulfilled his promise to prior generations, and Abraham's act of faith long ago bore fruit.



- Look at your own life, who are you becoming? Our journey can be encouraged in the same way.
- What do you need to give to the living Christ today to be transformed?