



## People Can Change

Matthew 21:28-32

Some folks suggest that people cannot \_\_\_\_\_. Have you ever heard somebody say, “Well, that just the \_\_\_\_\_ I am”; or “I \_\_\_\_\_ change”; or “You can’t teach an old dog \_\_\_\_\_ tricks”; or “Well, it’s genetic; I was \_\_\_\_\_ that way.” When I hear people say such things, I have to ask, “Is that really \_\_\_\_\_?” I have to admit that really doesn’t square with what I’ve \_\_\_\_\_ in people or what I read in the \_\_\_\_\_. Through the years I’ve seen all kinds of people make \_\_\_\_\_ changes in their thinking and in their lives.

Making changes in our lives is challenging because the temptation to continue doing what we have been used to doing remains \_\_\_\_\_. Many times it is not so much a question of whether a person \_\_\_\_\_ change as it is “do they \_\_\_\_\_ to change?” People start a \_\_\_\_\_ practice, and it becomes a habit, and then it becomes an addiction, and it \_\_\_\_\_ their lives. They don’t plan to be controlled by their appetites, but they become \_\_\_\_\_ (John 8:34). Because of \_\_\_\_\_, this is not the end of the story; there’s hope; there is a way to overcome the past. Just two verses later (John 8:36) the Lord promised, “So if the Son sets you \_\_\_\_\_, you will be free indeed.” God can help us become a \_\_\_\_\_ person, freed from the old and born again (2 Corinthians 5:17). **Read Colossians 3:5-10** If people cannot change, why would God \_\_\_\_\_ it? He doesn’t expect us to do what we \_\_\_\_\_ do. God knows what we can do, and He knows that we can change our \_\_\_\_\_; we can change our \_\_\_\_\_; and, yes, we can change our \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord told a story about a young man who \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 15:11-24). This touching story reminds us of the fact that people can wake up to life, the life that they have been living and they have been ashamed of, and they can come \_\_\_\_\_ to the Father. It also reminds us that God \_\_\_\_\_ every one of his children just like this father did the prodigal son. The lost can be \_\_\_\_\_, and the dead can become \_\_\_\_\_ spiritually. Change \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ take place. Repentance is a change of \_\_\_\_\_ that leads to a change of \_\_\_\_\_. God wants everyone to turn to Him, to change and to do what is \_\_\_\_\_ that they may live with Him eternally. Regretfully, not everyone \_\_\_\_\_ change. (Ezekiel 18:20-23).

Read the story of the change in the life of Phil’s uncle. Especially note the teaching from the Bible that brought about that change.

Jesus fulfilled all righteousness and was \_\_\_\_\_ by John (Matthew 3:15).

The one who believes and is baptized will be \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 16:16).

Baptism is the \_\_\_\_\_ birth of water and the Spirit (John 3:5).

We need to \_\_\_\_\_ and be baptized for the forgiveness of our \_\_\_\_\_, that is to be saved (Acts 2:38).

In baptism we go \_\_\_\_\_ into the water and we come up \_\_\_\_\_ of the water (Acts 8:38-39).

When we are baptized, our sins are \_\_\_\_\_ away (Acts 22:16).

Baptism is into Christ’s \_\_\_\_\_; we’re buried and raised with Him to \_\_\_\_\_ in newness of life; our old man of \_\_\_\_\_ is crucified with him in baptism so that we can be \_\_\_\_\_ from sin (Romans 6:3-7).

Change is not so unusual for people who \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). God \_\_\_\_\_ them change from sinners to saints. God can help each of us become the person that He \_\_\_\_\_ for us to be.

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