

Can People Really Change? “Vision, Intent, Strategy”- Jim Burgen

October 7-8, 2017

Community:

1. Did you (or do you know somebody) that took part in either; baptism or the *Thin Red Line* this past weekend? If so, talk about what that meant for you or that person.
2. What is something you wear or something you have around the house that is symbolic for you? What does it symbolize?

Core:

1. Do you ever feel like a “*bird in a cage*” or that parts of your life are locked in a prison cell? What parts of your life feel that way and how do they affect you?
2. **Read Galatians 5:1.** What first comes to mind when you think of freedom? What is the actual “*freedom*” Christ has given us? Where do you desire that freedom in your life?
3. Jim said, “*Jesus is not about behavior modification. Jesus is about spiritual formation—that leads to changed behaviors.*” He also said, “*Spiritual Formation is not a passive process.*” Looking at that, what do you think you need from Jesus in order to actually experience internal transformation? What are some practical steps you could take in order to step into that process of *spiritual formation*?
4. Think about those areas in life where you feel locked up, then ask yourself, “*What is the **vision** for that area of my life?*” What would those areas of your life look like if you were the kind of man or woman whose behaviors lined up with what Jesus had in mind?
5. Now ask yourself, “*What is the **intent** for that area of my life?*” Do you want it? Do you intend to plant your feet...take a stand...draw a line in the sand and from now on get up and do what needs to be done? What do you think it would take for you to have that kind of *intention* for those areas of your life?
6. What about your **strategy** for those areas of your life? Do you have one? What plans do you have to start acting differently in those areas of your life to move you towards something better; moving away from the old patterns of slavery of your past?

Challenge:

This week, write down the areas of your life where you want to see change and where you feel locked up. Then, spend some time journaling about your **vision**, **intent**, and **strategy** for those areas of your life, and the practical steps you can take in order to start seeing change. Pray and ask God to help you figure out what it is you need from Him in order to make that change. Change is possible—from the inside out. It’s going to take hard work, but Jesus will be enough for you!