**SOMETHING CHANGED**

CMBC July 3, 2016 Communion Hebrews 13:1 – 25

* I remember my first Communion. I was 12 years old and had just been baptized and joined the church. Up till then non-members had never been allowed in the sanctuary while Communion was being served. Honestly, I was so exicted that first time about what was taking place that I doubt I thought too much about what it meant. Since then, there have been many times that I have been overwhelmed in remembering what God has done for us, for me.
* Participating in the Lord’s Supper, in Communion is a declaration, a testimony that something has changed in my life, something that only God can do.
* When you eat the Communion Bread and drink the Communion Cup, you are declaring that you have been changed by God.
* Communion Is also a time when we listen to God pointing out how that change needs to be lived out in my life.
* The book of Hebrews never mentions the Lord’s Supper, but the message of it is all over this letter.
* The focus of the book is on Jesus. He is the one sent from God the Father to make possible the change in our lives.
* And the last to chapters of Hebrews tell us something of what that change looks like.
* First it is to know that the Power of God released within us as we believe in Him is what makes that change.

1. **THE POWER OF GOD’S WORK WITHIN** 
   1. Changed attitude
      1. **Hebrews12:1** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

**That is a changed attitude.**

[2] Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,

* + 1. **Hebrews 12:**7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons, (as His children, His family)

**Understanding that brings about a changed attitude.**

* + 1. **Verse 11** goes on to say: [11] No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

**That is change.**

And **verse 12** Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. [13] “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

* + 1. **That is a changed attitude. Isn’t just about me.**
    2. Attitude is changed by God which then results in a changed life-style.
  1. Changed lifestyle
     1. What follows is a description of what that changed lifestyle looks like.
        1. **12:14** Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.
        2. **13:1 – 5** Keep on loving each other as brothers. [2] Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. [3] Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. [4] Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. [5] Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have,
        3. This whole section reflects **Romans 12:2**  Do not conform any longer 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.
     2. The story of Nicole Cliff

(Christianity Today July/August 2016)

* + - 1. It was God that changed her life.

1. **JESUS IS THE SAME IN EVERY SITUATION** 
   1. Based in what Jesus did for us
      1. **Hebrews 13:12** Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.
      2. That is the testimony of the Lord’s Supper
   2. He is always there
      1. **Hebrews 13:5** God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”
      2. The first part of verse 5 is about money. “Keep your lives free from the lover of money.”
      3. Money represents almost everything in life.
      4. God says, I am there in everything. I will never leave you.
      5. Believing that will change your life.
   3. Hope for the weak and stumbling

Nicole tells about struggling at times to listen to God and obey Him.

There is hope for the weak and stumbling follower of Jesus.

* + 1. God knows that we struggle with what needs to be changed.
       1. **13:6** So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”
       2. Here is a God you can count on to help you in following through.
    2. And we don’t stand alone.
       1. **13:18** Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way.
       2. We stand together in helping each other change more and more.

In fact, this is a life long journey.

1. **THE JOURNEY OF CHANGE** 
   1. More changes ahead
      1. **Hebrews 13:20** May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, [21] equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.
      2. You are in the hands of a God who graciously is changing you as you let Him.
   2. The final completeness
      1. One day we will be completely changed
      2. The old is gone, the new has come.
      3. We will be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump.

The hymn declares:

*Saved by His power divine.*

*Saved through new life sublime.*

*Life now Is sweet and my joy is complete*

*For I’m save, saved, saved.*

Hallelujah! That is our testimony at this Table.

Let’s sing that Hymn.