

Sermon Outline Two
Changing Your Mind
[read *TMIWTB* chapters 7-10]

Introduction: John Ortberg compares people learning a language in the U.S.A. to people in China doing the same. Which country has the most methods—schools, classes, seminars, books, tapes, Rosetta Stone? The U.S.A. But in which country are the most people learning a new language—the U.S.A. or China? China. Why? The Chinese have a vision for how their lives will change of the better if they learn a new language, usually English. Becoming “the me I want to be” requires what Dallas Willard calls VIM. Vision. Intention. Means/method. Let us expand our vision for personal transformation and consider the importance of intention and means/method. Think VIM.

VISION

- A. Jesus offers us a captivating vision of a new life. Matthew 13:44-46
- B. We do not grasp Jesus’ compelling vision, Jesus’ vision grips us.
- C. All the best methods for life change languish without a strong vision.
- D. Jesus’ vision includes limitless love and freedom to be “the me I want to be.” Genesis 29:30
 - 1. It was love that made Jacob’s long years of labor seem like a few days.
 - 2. Within Jesus’ vision we are free to become a loving person.

INTENTION

- A. Intention is more than wishing or hoping; it is a settled decision. Mark 2:1-5
 - 1. The paralytic’s friends did more than wish and hope Jesus would heal him. They intended, decided and acted.
 - 2. Jesus “saw” their faith. How? Through their decisions and actions.
- B. The only person who can decide for you is you. You are not a spectator when it comes to your own life. 2 Corinthians 10:5
 - 1. We must take charge of our own harmful or helpful thought-life. Colossians 3:2; Romans 8:5 We learn to “change our minds”

John Milton wrote, “The mind is its own place, and in itself can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven.” *TMIWTB*, 95

2. No one says, “I wonder if I’ll learn Spanish?” or “I wonder if I will wake up tomorrow able to speak Spanish?”

(Along with vision and intention, we need...)

MEANS/METHOD

- A. Jesus’ life is filled with practices that he habitually did. Luke 5:16
 1. Note that Jesus “often” withdrew (solitude) and prayed (prayer).
 2. What other holy habits did Jesus practice?
- B. To become “the me I want to be” requires knowing the means, that is, the disciplines or practices.
 1. Practices are essential in music, sports, medicine, dance and in so many significant and beautiful aspects of life.
 2. Spiritual disciplines are all about freedom, freeing us from wishing and hoping, freeing us from others’ expectations, freeing us to become “the me I want to be.”

Application: With VIM—vision—intention—means—will we enter into the life God has for us and become the person God had in mind in creating us? John Ortberg writes, “Jesus does not come to rearrange the outside of our life the way we want. He comes to rearrange the inside of our life the way God wants.”
TMIWTB, 63

Will you surrender to God’s loving purpose for you life?