



Series Title: IMPACTERS - Who We Are

Transformation Begins with the Call to Conversion

Week 7 (16 March 2025)

Summary:

This week's Message explores the concept of being "Impacters" - Christians who are committed to a deep, transformative relationship with Jesus and dedicated to proclaiming His glory to the world. Bruce emphasizes that true discipleship goes beyond mere attendance or passive belief, requiring a continuous conversion and a structured way of life that fosters spiritual growth and missional living. The Message challenges listeners to fully surrender to God's call, adopt a life of prayer, simplicity, and service, and to actively seek transformation through God's grace rather than relying on personal willpower alone.

Key Points:

- Transformation begins with grace and requires ongoing conversion.
- Impacters are called to a structured way of life that deepens faith and leads to mission.
- True discipleship involves continuous surrender and saying "yes" to Jesus.
- Conversion is not just a moral shift but an encounter with Jesus that reorients one's entire being.
- The importance of community and small groups in living out the Christian faith.
- The need for sacrificial giving and service as part of the Impacter lifestyle.
- Transformation is God's work but requires our active participation and response.

Scripture Reference:

- John 15:16 - "You did not choose me, but I chose you."
- Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Stories:

- Bruce shares a conversation with his wife Rosemary about the depth of the previous week's message and the nature of the "Impacter" community.
- A personal anecdote about Bruce's son taking money from the collection plate at Mass as a child
- The story of Bruce's 16th birthday request for a Bible, influenced by a priest who loved the scriptures
- Bruce's personal reflection on his struggle to be a "good Christian" through willpower alone in his younger years.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How does the concept of being an 'Impacter' challenge your current understanding of Christian discipleship and mission?
- In what ways might adopting a 'way of life' similar to religious orders transform your daily spiritual practices and relationship with God?
- How do you interpret Bruce's emphasis on 'continuous conversion,' and what might that look like in your own spiritual journey?
- What are some practical ways you could implement the ideas of solitude, silence, and simplicity in your busy modern life?
- How does the notion that 'transformation is God's work' challenge or affirm your approach to personal growth and spiritual development?
- In what ways might you be holding back from fully surrendering certain areas of your life to God's lordship?
- How does Bruce's discussion of grace and conversion align with or differ from your understanding of these concepts?
- What role do you think community plays in spiritual transformation, and how might you deepen your connections with other believers?
- How might viewing yourself as part of a 'religious order' in everyday life change your perspective on your calling and purpose?
- In what ways could you live more 'missionally' in your current circumstances, as Bruce describes?

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a prayer asking God to open hearts and minds to His message and guide the group discussion.

Key Takeaways:

1. Impacters are called to a deeper relationship with Jesus and to transform the world around them.
2. Transformation begins with grace and requires ongoing conversion and renewal.
3. Being an Impacter involves committing to a structured way of life that fosters spiritual growth and mission.
4. True discipleship means making Jesus the Lord of every aspect of our lives.
5. Impacters are called to live missionally, serving others and sharing their faith in their daily environments.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you most from the Message? Why?
2. Bruce emphasizes that Impacters are "chasing God." What does this mean to you personally? How can we actively pursue a deeper relationship with God?
3. Discuss the concept of "continuous conversion." How have you experienced ongoing transformation in your own faith journey?
4. The Message mentions solitude, silence, and simplicity as important spiritual practices. How might incorporating these into your life deepen your relationship with God?
5. What areas of your life might you need to surrender more fully to make Jesus truly Lord?
6. How can we live missionally in our everyday environments (work, home, community)? Share specific examples.
7. Bruce mentions 14 commitments for Impacters. Which of these do you find most challenging? Most inspiring?
8. How might our small group support each other in living out the call to be Impacters?

Practical Applications:

1. Daily Prayer: Commit to asking God daily for the grace of deeper conversion.
2. Scripture Reading: Read one chapter of the Bible each day this week.
3. Secret Service: Look for an opportunity to serve someone anonymously this week.
4. Examine Your Life: Reflect on areas where you might need to surrender more fully to Christ. Write these down and pray over them.

5. Share Your Faith: Identify one person in your life with whom you can share about your relationship with Jesus this week.

Closing Prayer:

Close by praying for each group member to grow in their commitment to Christ and their impact on the world around them.