



A New Hope #2

9/18/22

Mark 1

1. Drew introduced his sermon by talking about keystone habits. Research shows that making your bed every morning leads to other good habits.

**Have you noticed that, when you do a certain good thing, it tends to lead to other good habits?

**What habits do you wish you could change? And do you think Jesus can help you change?

2. Drew paraphrased C.S. Lewis: “Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.” C.S. Lewis writes more about humility in *The Screwtape Letters*¹:

“...humans have been brought to think that humility means pretty women trying to believe they are ugly and clever men trying to believe they are fools. And since what they are trying to believe may, in some cases, be manifest nonsense, they cannot succeed in believing it, and we have the chance of keeping their minds endlessly revolving on themselves...”

**Have you ever met someone who thinks that they are the most humble person they know? How did you respond to this person?

**What does it look like to actually be humble?

3. Drew said, “We are designed to give God glory, not to grab it for ourselves.” John the Baptist said, “[Jesus] should increase and I must decrease” (John 3:30). The only way we will experience (insert good thing here), is if we do not seek our own glory, but give it to God. However, in a great reversal, this humble act of “decreasing” is what results in God giving us the glory that we originally possessed in the beginning.

**If God is deserving of glory, why does he give it to us?

For further discussion: Read Romans 1:21-23.

**What do these verses say about glory and humanity’s possession and loss of it?

4. In Acts 2:37, those listening to Peter’s sermon were convicted by the Holy Spirit and asked, “What are we supposed to do?” To which Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins.” This was the same message of John the Baptist in Mark 1:4.

**What does repent mean?

**Does baptism remove our sin?

¹ This is a fictional work where a senior demon tempter, named Screwtape, writes advice to an underling, Wormwood. The whole work is a commentary on the journey of Christian discipleship and virtue-making throughout his or her life.

For Further discussion: The Hebrew word for repent (pronounced *shoove*) means, “to turn around” and the Greek word (pronounced *metanaeo*) means “to change one’s mind.”

**How does this change or enrich what it means to repent?

5. A major biblical theme is when a chosen one or a chosen people of God pass through water. The story of Jesus’ baptism replays, adds to, and fulfills this theme.

**What are all the previous Bible stories that include people passing through water?

**How is Jesus’ baptism the culmination of these stories (how does it fulfill, complete, finalize etc.)?

6. If you have been baptized, discuss your baptism. At Forefront, we believe that baptism is the outward symbol of an inward transformation that Jesus has accomplished in you, and it is marked by a change in your thoughts and actions toward others and the whole world.

**Were you immersed? Sprinkled by water or have water poured on you? Adult or child?

**What did your baptism mean to you?