



**Courageous Conversations About Change, Part 2  
(What Change Requires, Romans 12:1-2)**

May 13, 2018

12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present** your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.<sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (NKJV)

**Series Review:**

- Change requires research (John 3:1-2)
- Change requires the willingness to start over (John 3:3)
- Change requires that you personally believe the right things (John 3:14-16)
- Change requires **exposure, sacrifice and decision-making** (Romans 12:1-2)

**Big Point:** The results in your life are an indication of the exposures, sacrifices and decisions you have made so far in your life. The only exceptions are the unfair seeds others have sown into your life without your permission.

**Big Question:** Are you willing to be exposed to more of the world, sacrifice, and make new decisions?

**I. Three Courageous Steps That Can Change Your Results**

**1. You Must Make Courageous Sacrifices**

- 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

**2. You Must Make Courageous Decisions**

- 12:2 And **do not be conformed** to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

**3. You Must Make Courageous Efforts to Be Exposed to the World (Matthew 28:19-20)**

- **Go** therefore and make disciples of **all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to **the end of the age.**” Amen. (NKJV)
- The exposure will inspire you to disciple others (There is a **discipling element**)
- The exposure will inspire you to go to “all nations” (There is a **traveling element**)
- The exposure will inspire you for years to come (There is a **time element**)

**Conclusion:** You don’t have forever to change; be careful that you don’t create results that can’t be changed.

- **Eli’s** lack of leadership of his family created an unchangeable result (I Samuel 2:30-36)
- **Samuel’s** lack of leadership of his family created an unchangeable result (I Samuel 8:1-5)

- **Moses' immature response to leadership pressures created an unchangeable result (Deut. 3:23-29)**

## **II. Three Examples of Leaders Who Waited Too Long To Change**

### **1. Eli and his sons waited too long and ran out of chances to change (1 Samuel 2:30–36)**

- 31 Behold, the days are coming that I will cut off your arm and the arm of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house. 32 And you will see an enemy in My dwelling place, despite all the good which God does for Israel. And there shall not be an old man in your house forever. 33 But any of your men whom I do not cut off from My altar shall consume your eyes and grieve your heart. And all the descendants of your house shall die in the flower of their age. 34 Now this shall be a sign to you that will come upon your two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas: in one day they shall die, both of them. 35 Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who shall do according to what is in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever. 36 And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left in your house will come and bow down to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and say, "Please, put me in one of the priestly positions, that I may eat a piece of bread." ' ' "

**Question:** Are you waiting to confront things in your family?

### **2. Samuel and his sons waited too long and ran out of chances to change (1 Samuel 8:1–5 )**

- Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel. 2 The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. 3 But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice. 4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, 5 and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations."

**Question:** Has your inconsistency caused others to lose faith in your leadership?

### **3. Moses and some in his generation ran out of chances to change (Deut. 3:23–29)**

- 23 "Then I pleaded with the Lord at that time, saying: 24 'O Lord God, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand, for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do anything like Your works and Your mighty deeds? 25 I pray, let me cross over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, those pleasant mountains, and Lebanon.' 26 "But the Lord was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me. So the Lord said to me: 'Enough of that! Speak no more to Me of this matter. 27 Go up to the top of Pisgah, and lift your eyes toward the west, the north, the south, and the east; behold it with your eyes, for you shall not cross over this Jordan. 28 But command Joshua and encourage him and strengthen him; for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which you will see.' 29 "So we stayed in the valley opposite Beth Peor.

#### **Two closing questions:**

- Have you run out of chances?
- How can anyone run out of chances if grace is always available? (Revelation 19 and 20)

**Next Time:** Courageous Conversations About Change Part Three (Changing My Bad Side)

**Big Question:** Why is it so hard to change bad habits?

**Read Ahead:** Romans 7-8