

## WAITING FOR CHANGE

Last week I found myself waiting for change to be given back to me on two separate occasions. The first time was at the grocery store. I could tell right away the cashier was distracted in thought as she scanned my purchase. I held out my money to pay but there was no reaction on her part to take it from me. Twenty seconds passed before she came out of her daze and took the money. She admitted having drifted off and apologized for it. I was owed 5 cents back in change, but the cashier closed her drawer and seemed to be distracted in thought once again. I stood there waiting for my change, but I could quickly tell she was not aware I was still standing there. I did something this cheap, frugal Presbyterian pastor would rarely do and walked away without being given change.

Two days later I was at the Dollar Store and once again paid with cash for my purchase. This time I was owed \$5.00 back in change but the cashier closed her cash drawer and just handed me back the receipt. This cheap, frugal Presbyterian pastor was not going to let this same thing happen to him twice in the same week. In a polite way I brought it to the cashier's attention how she forgot to give me back my change. She apologized right away and acknowledged she had never made that mistake with any customer before. I was not mad or angry, but I did appreciate being able to walk out with the change I was expecting to get back.

I imagine many of us have had similar experiences of not getting back the change we were expecting after a purchase. These two experiences got me distracted in thought wondering if we have not been giving back proper change to Jesus after He purchased our forgiveness through His death on the cross. One of the things I enjoy reading about in the Gospels is the incredible changes Jesus made happen in people's lives. Jesus identified some of the changes He had helped people to experience in these words He wanted shared with John the Baptist, who was in prison at the time:

**Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen— the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.  
(Matthew 11:4-6)**

These are some of incredible changes Jesus was making in people's lives during His public ministry. A change not identified in this passage, but that Jesus eventually made happen was for our sins to be forgiven, and the veil to be removed that was separating us from the Father. We celebrated at Easter this change Jesus made happen for us through His death on the cross and His joyous resurrection. The apostle Paul pointed out this change Jesus made for us, and the impact it should have on us in this passage:

**So all of us who have had the veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord-who is the Spirit-makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image. (2 Corinthians 3:18)**

According to Paul, now that the veil has been removed, we are not only blessed by the experience of seeing the glory of the Lord, but also by having the gift of the Holy Spirit living within us. Paul shared here how the Holy Spirit will help us understand how wonderful Jesus is and aid us in making changes to become more Christ-like in our ways.

After I reflected in thought about all of this, I wondered:

**Is Jesus still waiting upon us to give Him the change He is expecting?**

Have we given back to Jesus our love for what He did for us on the cross by making changes to become more Christ-like or have we become distracted from this like the cashiers at the two stores? Let us use this opportunity to truly reflect upon whether we are giving back to Jesus proper change in our lives or if we have been shortchanging Him of late.

I know some reading this may still be in shock that this cheap, frugal Presbyterian pastor allowed himself to be shortchanged by a nickel. God did use that nickel to inspire a message, money well left if it inspires change.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean