

# Spiritual Disciplines

## *The Call to Change*

(Matthew 8:1-34)

- Introduction:
1. This is the first lesson in a series of lessons on “Spiritual Disciplines.”
  2. As you know, and as we have sung for all our lives, we come to Jesus just as we are, but he expects spiritual transformation to take place.
  3. This transformation is called “sanctification” in the Bible (1 Thessalonians 4:3; Romans 12:2).
  4. These spiritual disciplines don’t “just happen,” they are developed through spiritual maturity.
  5. In these lessons, I will be pointing out several spiritual disciplines in which transformation ought to be taking place in our lives.
  6. In this lesson, we will examine how we may need and as they do, we will become more conformed to the image of Jesus (Romans 8:29).

### I. **A Changeless God Calls for Us to Change**

- A. (Romans 8:29).
- B. (Colossians 1:27).
- C. (Galatians 2:20).
- D. (Romans 13:11-14).

### II. **How Changing to be Like Jesus Will Change Us**

- A. Jesus ***cared for people***.
  1. (Matthew 8:1-3).
  2. Jesus not only healed the leper, but he touched him (8:3).
  3. He was moved with compassion (Matthew 14:14).
  4. He wept at the death of Lazarus (John 11:35).
- B. Jesus ***complimented people***.
  1. (Matthew 8:5-10).
  2. Jesus complimented a man for his faith (8:10), when he could have remained silent.
  3. (Romans 14:19).
  4. (Proverbs 3:27).
- C. Jesus ***changed people***.
  1. (Matthew 8:28-34).
  2. (2 Corinthians 5:17).
  3. (Romans 7:4).

- Conclusion:
1. I want to begin this series on “Spiritual Disciples” to challenge you to transform your life into the image of Jesus.
  2. Becoming a Christian is not just an event, but an ongoing transformation that must exist in our lives.
  3. Will you commit to making the changes to which our changeless God calls us?