



THE FORTY

40 days of prayer + fasting + reflection | JOHN 15:17

Change

Everything is changing, and you are too.

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Change

Every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different than it was before. And taking your life as a whole, with all your innumerable choices, all your life long you are slowly turning this central thing into a heavenly creature or a hellish creature: either into a creature that is in harmony with God...or else into one that is in a state of war and hatred with God.

—C.S. Lewis

Change

JOHN 16:31-33

Paraphrasing, Jesus says, I have told you many things, and if you believe in me you can enjoy my presence and have my peace – even more so in times of trouble – instead of scattering, separating and running from me.

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JOHN 16:31-33

“Do you now believe?” Jesus replied. “A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

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Instead Jesus spent much of his final opportunities inviting people to be with him and to believe in him. He finishes his earthly life saying things like remain in me, I will be with you, remember me, and that the Father and He and the believers are to be one.

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One of the single most incredible things about Jesus is that he was simultaneously eternal and temporal – God in the flesh, in the world.

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Jesus is saying that being with him is what matters, and that even you and I can have that. If you believe.

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Jesus radical last words of guidance for life aren't **behavioral**, they're about **belonging**. To remain in, to be one with, to remember, to be indwelt by HIM.

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JOHN 17:20-26

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one.”

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JOHN 17:20-26

“I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”

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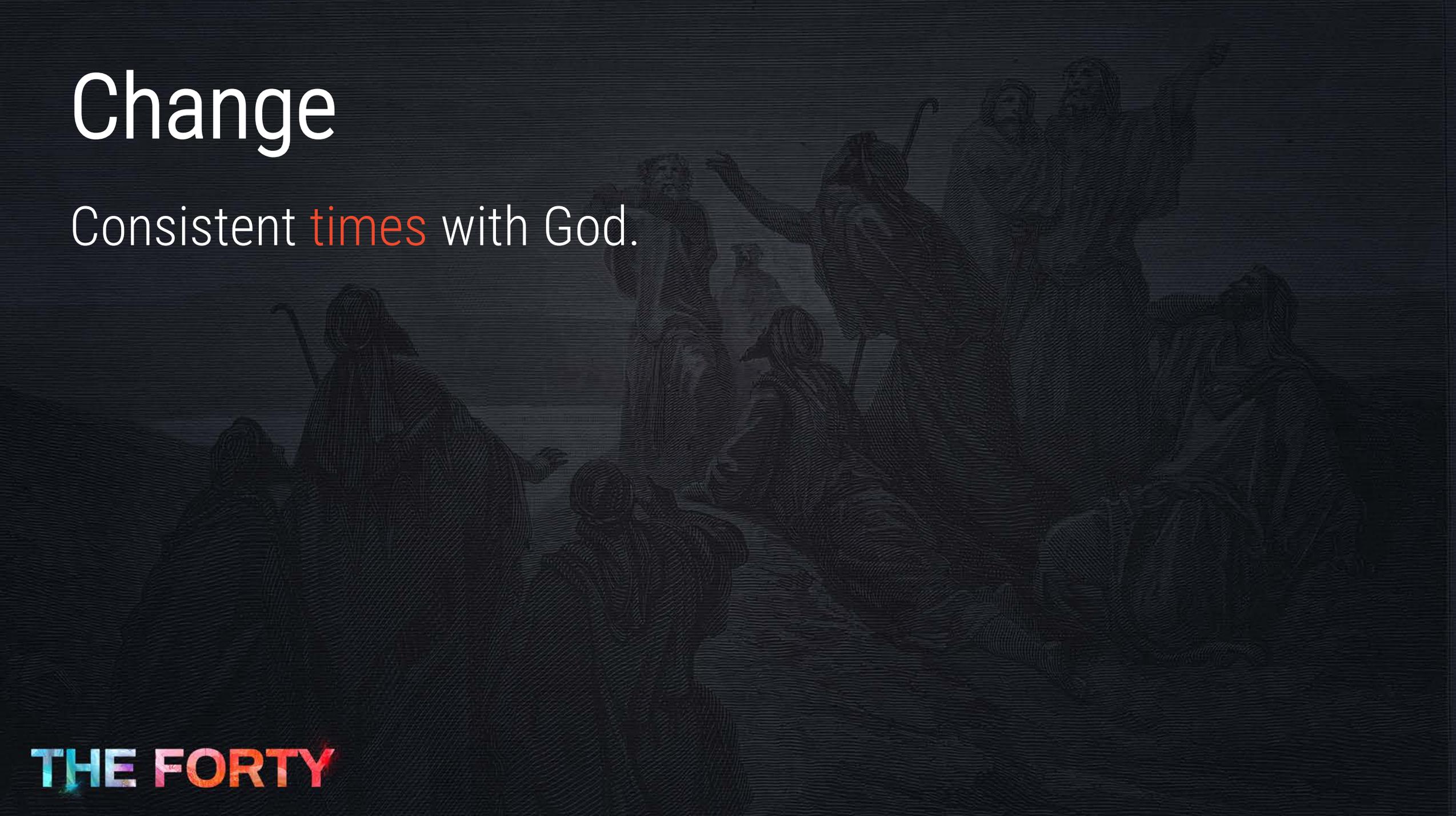
JOHN 17:20-26

“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you[e] known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

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Consistent **times** with God.

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Change

Authentic **considerations** in grace.

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Public **expressions** of belief.

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JOHN 16:33

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

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Christianity is the offer of God to live in his followers and achieve in them the victory demonstrated in his Son Jesus Christ.

—Gary Burge

Change

In Jesus, we can change into the one who trusts Jesus, one who experiences the peace of Jesus, one who points to Jesus, and ultimately one who brings fame, attention to God.