



Has Your Focus Changed Enough?

Luke 5:37: (NASB) *And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled out, and the skins will be ruined.*

get rid of these, just always carry a notebook to write these things down in. It serves to focus my thoughts in the present moment and need to do next. By keeping every part of my brain

Sometimes change is in order. Sometimes it becomes evident that the path we are currently following is not leading us in the best direction and a decision is required to alter not only our *direction*, but our *thinking* as well. This is what we are faced with when we profess Christianity. This profession requires us to observe, perceive and follow through on a *different* life. So, are you ready for that?

Our conversation will be based on a very short and simple parable that Jesus spoke: Matthew 9:14-17, Mark 2:18-22, Luke 5:33-39: (The consolidated, "Gospel 3-in-1 Rick Version")

Mark 2:18: *And John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and they (John's disciples) come and say unto him, why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast often, and make supplications; but thy (Jesus') disciples fast not?*

The basic question asked by John's disciples was sincere and sensible: Why did they fast and live a certain way but those who follow Jesus did not?

John the Baptist was a very radical example to follow:

Mark 1:6-8: (NASB) ⁶*John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and his diet was locusts and wild honey.* ⁷*And he was preaching, and saying, after me one is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.* ⁸*I baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.*

The last prophet Israel had was Malachi about 400 years earlier. The people wondered why Jesus was doing things so differently.

(Source: Bible commentary by Alfred Barnes) It is probable that they had understood that John was the forerunner of the Messiah; and if such was the case, they could not account for the fact that there was such a difference between them and the disciples of Jesus. The Pharisees fasted often, regularly twice a week, besides the great national days of fasting, Luke 18:12. See Barnes "Matthew 6:16-18." This was the established custom of the land, and John did not feel himself authorized to make so great a change as to dispense with it. They were desirous of knowing, therefore, why Jesus had done it.

So, Jesus explained why things would from now on be different:

Mark 2:19-20: ¹⁹*And Jesus said unto them, can the sons of the bride chamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.* ²⁰*But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then will they fast in that day.*

Once the bridegroom arrives, it is a time of great celebration and not fasting.

The practical, logical answer is given. But now Jesus will teach the lesson:

Luke 5:36-38: ³⁶*And he spake also a parable unto them: No man rendeth a piece from a new garment and putteth it upon an old garment; else he will rend the new, and also the piece from the new will not agree with the old, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made.* ³⁷*And no man putteth new wine into old wineskins; else the new wine will burst the skins, and itself will be spilled, and the skins will perish.* ³⁸*But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins.* ³⁹*And no man having drunk old wine desireth new; for he saith, the old is good.*



These are two very natural and common examples of their day:

- *Old garment/new patch:* The inevitable shrinking of the new will damage the old.
- *Wine and wineskins:* Fermentation must be done in a sealed skin - it forces expansion and the stretching of the skin. Once stretched, the skin can no longer be used for new wine.



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The answer challenged those listening to see an elevated way of thinking of the old and the new. Today we would call this “making a paradigm shift.”

What is a “paradigm?”

(Source: *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, Stephen R. Covey) p. 23: For our purpose, a simple way to understand paradigms is to see them as maps. We all know that “the map is not the territory.” A map is simply an explanation of certain aspects of the territory. That’s exactly what a paradigm is. It is a theory, an explanation, or model of something else.

p. 29: Thomas Kuhn introduced the term “paradigm shift” in his highly influential landmark book, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Kuhn shows how almost every significant breakthrough in the field of scientific endeavor is first a break with tradition, with old ways of thinking, with old paradigms.



For Ptolemy, the great Egyptian astronomer, the earth was the center of the universe. But Copernicus created a paradigm shift, and a great deal of resistance and persecution as well, by placing the sun at the center. Suddenly, everything took on a different interpretation.

Jesus was telling the followers of John it was time for a different interpretation, a different meaning of the things happening. Jesus was THE Deliverer, the one everyone looked for in the future. But now the future had arrived! One acts differently during the waiting period compared to when the deliverer finally arrives.

What was the paradigm of the disciples of John?

Mark 1:1-4: (NASB) ¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make ready the way of the Lord, Make his paths straight. ⁴John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

By definition, John’s would be a short term work of preparation.

John’s disciples notice the attention has shifted to Jesus and they complained to John:

John 3:28-30: (NASB) ²⁸You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, I am not the Christ, but, I have been sent ahead of him. ²⁹He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. So this joy of mine has been made full. He must increase, but I must decrease.



It was clear that John understood what was happening and what his role was. Jesus had to become the center of attention. John uses the illustration of the bridegroom that Jesus continued in Mark 2:19-20.



The activity of *packing* for a trip is different from actually *being* on the trip. John and his disciples were *preparing* for Jesus. The **OBJECTIVE**, **MESSAGE** AND **METHOD** would necessarily change once Jesus arrived.

What was the paradigm of the Pharisees?

Mark 12:13: (NASB) *Then they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to him in order to trap him in a statement.*

John 5:16: (NASB) *For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath.*



Definition, Steven Covey, Explaining Paradigm Shift

- *A paradigm comes from the Greek root “paradeigma.” It basically means a pattern, a model, a representation, something that stands for something else. It comes from the mental image you have in your mind of the way things are out there. And the images we carry in our heads of the way things are - of reality - come basically from our own backgrounds, our own experiences. All of us think we see the world as it is. In fact, we see the world as we are.*



With Jesus, everything was dramatically different from both the Pharisees and John: His **OBJECTIVE**, his **MESSAGE** and his **METHOD**. All of this difference constituted new and uncharted territory, needing a new map - a new paradigm!

Do we need a wakeup call? Does our way of thinking follow after Jesus or something or someone else?

Galatians 4:1-7: (NRSV) ¹*My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than slaves, though they are the owners of all the property;* ²*but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father.* ³*So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits of the world.* ⁴*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,* ⁵*in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.* ⁶*And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father!* ⁷*So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.*



What was Jesus' objective and how was it so different?

Today's parable teaching of Jesus is focusing on the "new." The Gospel of the kingdom required a different mindset from the previous Jewish thinking. Could this Gospel also require *us* to readjust our mindset, even though we already have Christian thinking? Our Christian thinking has to grow and develop so we can make sure we are doing what we are supposed to be doing.

"What you see depends on what you thought before you looked." - Eugene Taurman



Wrong map - what would you do, Steven Covey, *Explaining Paradigm Shift*

- It is a map, like a map of this hotel, or a map, let's say, of Portland. I'll ask this gentleman, what would you do if you came here to Portland and you have no information at all about this place, and you were given a map where you rented the car, and it was a map of Seattle, but on the top it said "Portland?" What would you do?*

If you don't know you have the wrong map, you will follow it thinking you have the right one. It will not lead to where you want to go. Sometimes we have the wrong map in our minds, like John's disciples.

Previous

- ✓ Announce, prepare and demonstrate that Messiah will come

OBJECTIVE SHIFT



NEW!

- ✓ Fulfill the Law
Matthew 5:16-18
- ✓ Pay the ransom price
Mark 10:42-45
- ✓ Call out "a people for His name"
1 Peter 2:5-10

The previous objective: Announce, prepare and demonstrate that Messiah will come



Paradigm Shift to *Jesus'* OBJECTIVE:

- Fulfill the Law (not destroy the Law)

Matthew 5:16-18: (NRSV) ¹⁶*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.* ¹⁷*Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.* ¹⁸*For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.*

This fulfilling would provide release from the Law for his followers. He was not taking away from the integrity of the Law, so he should not have been a major threat to those he was speaking to.

- Pay the ransom price - open the door to salvation for all

Mark 10:42-45: (NRSV) ⁴²*So Jesus called them and said to them, you know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them.* ⁴³*But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant,* ⁴⁴*and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.* ⁴⁵*For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

This ransom would be paid through humble sacrifice - an example for all disciples to follow. It would also bring the kingdom that his life proclaimed. Instead of trying to keep up with atonement for sins as required by the Jewish Law year after year, his ransom was the sacrifice to replace the need for all of those other sacrifices. This was a huge paradigm shift!

- Call out *a people* for his name

1 Peter 2:5-10: (NRSV) ⁵*like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.* ⁶*For it stands in scripture: See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.*

This called "people" will be many who walk the walk of sacrifice, in the likeness of the chief cornerstone, which is Jesus.

⁷*To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,* ⁸*and a stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall. They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.*

This "people" stand apart from the masses that will be ransomed... but not without trial!

⁹*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.* ¹⁰*Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

This "people" will be spiritual guides and witnesses to those masses who are stuck in sin. The benefit of Christianity to all will become evident in the future.

Am I following Jesus in the way he would have me follow him or the way I feel comfortable in following him?



Previous

- ✓ Repent and prepare for the coming forgiveness and deliverance
Matthew 3:7-10



NEW!

- ✓ The Law was to lead us to Jesus
John 14:5-6
Galatians 3:23-26
- ✓ Sacrifice and love required
Luke 9:22-24
John 15:8-14

Paradigm Shift to Jesus's MESSAGE:

The previous message: Repent and prepare for the coming forgiveness and deliverance - get ready to be delivered.

Matthew 3:7-10: (NASB) ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, you brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; ⁹and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, we have Abraham for our father; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Back to the map of the wrong city...

Try harder, Steven Covey, Explaining Paradigm Shift

- (Covey) So, you don't know otherwise. Never been here, you have no other source of information.
- (Man in audience named Keith) I would hopefully ask for a little bit more direction than just what's on that map. Maybe have them start me out.
- (Covey) Ok, the person at the desk said, "Sorry, Sir, that's all we have. It's late at night, good luck to you. Here's the key to your car, it's right across the street, it's in number 14. And if you'll follow this map, you'll be able to find this hotel that you want to get to." Ok now, just assume you call your buddy here up on the phone. And he knows that you've got that map and he says to you, "Keith, try harder, you're tired." So now you double your speed, what's going to happen?
- (Keith) I'm going to get nowhere twice as fast.
- (Covey) You call him back in a state of total despair and discouragement and you say to him, "I have never been so confused and so lost in my life and I am following this map to the hilt. I've doubled my speed, and I'm lost twice as fast." He senses you're discouraged. You're really down. You're almost ready to give up. It's despairing. And he says to you, "Think positively."



Paradigm Shift to *Jesus's MESSAGE* (continued):

- *I am the way, the truth and the life - the Law was there to lead us to Jesus.*

John 14:5-6: (NRSV) ⁵*Thomas said to him, Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?* ⁶*Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

Jesus is the map! Follow what he says! He is the way to eternal life.

Galatians 3:23-26: (NRSV) ²³*Now before faith came; we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.*

Make the shift from what was to what should be. We were imprisoned under the Law, but now a paradigm shift - a new map - servitude has ended and sonship has begun because of Jesus.

- *...Let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me*

Luke 9:22-24: (NRSV) ²²*saying, the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²³Then he said to them all, if any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it.*

The willingness to follow and live sacrificially is the first test...

- *Love one another as I have loved you*

John 15:8-14: (NRSV) ⁸*My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you.*

We are to affirmatively bear fruit. Faith must be productive. We are to love as we are loved, even towards our enemies.



We know Jesus' objective and message -
but *how* does he carry those things out?

Previous

- ✓ The sacrifices, rituals and tithing of the Law
Mark 7:3-4



NEW!

- ✓ Prophecies both fulfilled and spoken
Matthew 21:4-7
Matthew 24:32-35
- ✓ Miracles
Luke 6:17-19
- ✓ Parables
Matthew 13:13-17
- ✓ Love
John 13:13-14

Paradigm Shift to Jesus's **METHOD**:

The previous method: The sacrifices, rituals and tithing of the Law

Mark 7:3-4: (NASB) ³For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they carefully wash their hands, thus observing the traditions of the elders; ⁴and when they come from the market place, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves; and there are many other things which they have received in order to observe, such as the washing of cups and pitchers and copper pots.

They were all about doing the things that outwardly would show they were pious. This was a mentality filled with the Law and tradition. That was fine but it missed the main point of the Law - to prepare your heart for the coming of Messiah. When Messiah came, their hearts were not ready.



Translator, Steven Covey, Explaining Paradigm Shift

- Assumptions are "the way things are" represent what the reality is. You don't question them. I remember I was giving a speech a little while back, and there was someone in the front row just constantly talking to another person. My mother was two rows behind, and she was so upset that here her precious son was being so ignored, so blatantly, so openly - constantly - and would not end. From the very moment I began to the end of my speech - just constant talking. And it just totally discombobulated her own listening and she felt like taking her purse and reaching two rows ahead. Anyways, she went up afterwards to the person running the conference and said, "Did you see that? Did you see what was happening? Can you believe that? Right there in the front row!" "Yeah, I know! She's Korean; that's her translator."



From our perspective, what we think can really be something entirely different. It is a wakeup call for us to understand just what is the call of Christianity. What is required of us? How am I responding to it? (And not how it is responding to me!)



Paradigm Shift to *Jesus's* **METHOD** (continued):

- Prophecies both fulfilled and spoken

Matthew 21:4-7: (NRSV) ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

Matthew 24:32-35: (NRSV) ³²From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁴Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³⁵Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

The sure word of prophecy serves as a direction for us to follow without fear! The fig tree represents the nation of Israel. At the time of his return, we were told to expect to see Israel blossom. In 1948 (against all odds!), Israel became a nation again.

Jesus relied on the Old Testament prophecies as a guide and then fulfilled those Scriptures and furthered them.

- Miracles

Luke 6:17-19: (NASB) ¹⁷Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place; and there was a large crowd of his disciples, and a great throng of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were being cured. ¹⁹And all the people were trying to touch him, for power was coming from him and healing them all.

The miracles serve as great inspiration for us. They are a preview of what Jesus came to do but did not finish when he came the first time. The bigger picture is the future in the kingdom when all will be resurrected and healed. Does this make us want to follow Jesus in his footsteps?

- Parables

Matthew 13:13-17: (NRSV) ¹³The reason I speak to them in parables is that seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand. ¹⁴With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says: you will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive. ¹⁵For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn— and I would heal them. ¹⁶But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

The gift of understanding cannot be minimized! Do we appreciate this knowledge? The vast majority of people are not going to understand.



You are blessed because your eyes are open and ears are open. Are we “getting in our own way” of that understanding by following our own interpretations and not that from Jesus?

- Love

John 13:13-14: (NASB) ¹³*You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am.* ¹⁴*If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.*

We should be serving others and not judging others.



Don't “add streets”
to the map we
have been given!
Follow the path no
matter the bumps
or winding roads.

Paradigm Shift to *Jesus's* **OBJECTIVE**:

Are we “shifted” to understand what Jesus did?

- Fulfill the Law
- Pay the ransom price - open the door to salvation for all
- Call out a people for his name

Paradigm Shift to *Jesus's* **MESSAGE**:

Are we “shifted” to hear what Jesus said?

- *I am the way, the truth and the life* - the Law was there to lead us to him
- *Let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me*
- *Love one another as I have loved you*

Paradigm Shift to *Jesus's* **METHOD**:

Are we “shifted” to learn the way Jesus taught?

- Prophecies both fulfilled and spoken
- Miracles
- Parables
- Love



Subway kids, Steven Covey, Explaining Paradigm Shift

- I was on a subway in a very, very, large metropolitan city. Sunday morning, it's quiet, sedate. A bunch of young kids running in the subway, father follows. He sits near me; the kids just go crazy on that subway. Running up and down. Turning people's papers aside. Just ruckus and rude. I am sitting there, "Ugh I can't believe this. He does nothing!" I look at my attitude, try to control...but look what I can see! After a few minutes, attitude went into behavior. "Sir, do you think you could control your children a little? They're very upsetting to people."*

More on this shortly....

Back to this program's opening question asked by John's disciples of Jesus as to why things were being done differently.

Here is the next thing that happened to illustrate the point Jesus was teaching them:

Luke 8:40-56: (NASB) ⁴⁰And as Jesus returned, the people welcomed him, for they had all been waiting for him. (The Matthew 9 account adds, "while he was saying these things"...) ⁴¹And there came a man named Jairus, and he was an official of the synagogue; and he fell at Jesus' feet, and began to implore him to come to his house; ⁴²for he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, and she was dying. But as he went, the crowds were pressing against him.

Jairus fought through the crowd and begged Jesus to heal his young daughter. Jesus immediately sets out to heal and to show them that the kingdom of God was among them.

⁴³And a woman who had a hemorrhage for twelve years, and could not be healed by anyone, ⁴⁴came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped. ⁴⁵And Jesus said, who is the one who touched me? And while they were all denying it, Peter said, Master, the people are crowding and pressing in on you. ⁴⁶But Jesus said, someone did touch me, for I was aware that power had gone out of me.

On his way to this emergency he stops, for someone exhibited faith in their trials of life:

⁴⁷When the woman saw that she had not escaped notice, she came trembling and fell down before him, and declared in the presence of all the people the reason why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. ⁴⁸And he said to her, Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace. ⁴⁹While he was still speaking, someone came from the house of the synagogue official, saying, your daughter has died; do not trouble the Teacher anymore.

We can imagine the distress of Jairus! This delay - an apparent misuse of time - cost his daughter her life! Couldn't this woman have just waited? His paradigm knew hope was lost because they did not act fast enough.

⁵⁰But when Jesus heard this, he answered him, do not be afraid any longer; only believe, and she will be made well. ⁵¹When he came to the house, he did not allow anyone to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the girl's father and mother. ⁵²Now they were all weeping and lamenting for her; but he said, stop weeping, for she has not died, but is asleep. ⁵³And they began laughing at him, knowing that she had died. ⁵⁴He, however, took her by the hand and called, saying, Child, arise! ⁵⁵And her spirit returned, and she got up immediately; and he gave orders for something to be given her to eat. ⁵⁶Her parents were amazed; but he instructed them to tell no one what had happened.

So, Jesus shows his power over illness (sin) as he is on his way to reverse death!



))) **Subway kids end of the story, Steven Covey, *Explaining Paradigm Shift***

- *He lifted his head as if to come to an awareness of what was happening. "Yeah, I don't know. I just - guess I should. We just left the hospital. Their mother died just about an hour ago, and I guess they don't know how to take it and frankly I don't either."*
- *Imagine the paradigm shift that took place there. Imagine now what the attitude and behavior would be based upon that paradigm. Can you see why paradigms are deeper than attitude or behavior?*

Given the right paradigm, he could now be compassionate in the situation.

We are in a situation where our paradigms can be very wrong in relation to our own Christianity. **Make sure your paradigm - the map you use inside your own mind - is a map of pure spirituality from the Scriptures and not from tradition or what is comfortable.**

Jesus came to save the world.

*So, has your focused changed enough?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



An example of the need to change a paradigm:

A large ocean liner was headed across the Atlantic from Portsmouth to New York. As it neared its destination at night, a lookout on the wing of the bridge reported "Light, bearing on the starboard bow." "Is it steady or moving astern?" the captain called out. The lookout replied, "Steady, captain," which meant they were on a collision course. The captain then called to the signalman, "Signal that ship: We are on a collision course, advise you change course 20 degrees." Back came a signal, "Advisable for you to change course 20 degrees." The captain said, "Send, I'm a captain, change course 20 degrees." "I'm a seaman, second class," came the reply. "You had better change course 20 degrees." By that time the captain was furious. He spat out, "Send, This is the mighty ocean liner, HMS Franconia. Change course 20 degrees." Back came the flashing light, "This is a lighthouse, suggest you change course 20 degrees." Needless to say, the ocean liner changed course!





A practical process to help change our paradigms...



1. When you change your thinking, you change your beliefs.

Acts 10:9-20: (NRSV) ⁹About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. ¹¹He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. ¹²In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. ¹³Then he heard a voice saying, get up, Peter; kill and eat. ¹⁴But Peter said, by no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean. ¹⁵The voice said to him again, a second time, what God has made clean, you must not call profane. ¹⁶This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven. ¹⁷Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen; suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon's house and were standing by the gate. ¹⁸They called out to ask whether Simon, who was called Peter, was staying there. ¹⁹While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, look; three men are searching for you. ²⁰Now get up, go down, and go with them without hesitation; for I have sent them.

2. When you change your beliefs, you change your expectations.

Mark 9:20-27: (NRSV) ²⁰And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹Jesus asked the father, how long has this been happening to him? And he said, from childhood. ²²It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us. ²³Jesus said to him, if you are able! —All things can be done for the one who believes. ²⁴Immediately the father of the child cried out, I believe; help my unbelief! ²⁵When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, you spirit that keeps this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again! ²⁶After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, he is dead. ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand.



3. When you change your expectations, you change your attitude.

Now, the conversion of Saul - talk about paradigm shifts!

Acts 9:1-9: (NRSV) ¹Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? ⁵He asked, who are you, Lord? The reply came, I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do. ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

4. When you change your attitude, you change your behavior.

But Saul was not the only one who had to readjust his attitude and behavior. Ananias' paradigm told him clearly to stay away from Saul!

Acts 9:10-17: (NRSV) ¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, Ananias. He answered, here I am, Lord. ¹¹The Lord said to him get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight. ¹³But Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name. ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name. ¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

5. When you change your behavior, you change your performance

Here is where the "rubber meets the road." All of the changes up to this point were primarily internal, but this change shows the world your authenticity...

Acts 9:18-22: (NRSV) ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength. ²⁰and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, he is the Son of God. ²¹All who heard him were amazed and said, is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests? ²²Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

6. When you change your performance, you change your life!

"New wine needs new skins" A new paradigm produces a new life...

Acts 9:23-27: (NRSV) ²³After some time had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, ²⁴but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night so that they might kill him; ²⁵but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket. ²⁶When he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. ²⁷But Barnabas took him, brought him to the apostles, and described for them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus.