

"YIELD"**Date:** January 2, 2022**Speaker:** Chris Potter

Our heart for these last two months was to be able to embrace the tension that exists as we hold together living in the present, in light of eternity...

2 months both seems like a short period of time, and forever. Over this time...

- I have both officiated a wedding...
- And a memorial...
- We have all celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas in our own way...
- We brought a new family member into our home, Cheerio
- Which moments stand out to you over this time?

It's almost overwhelming then to think about how this is only 1/6 of the last year. Though life continues, so much has changed!

- Some of it is subtle, some of it is undeniable.
- Sometimes you can see transformation visually, and sometimes you must look closer...
- **But this is the time of year we do this, right? We look back in order to get perspective in moving forward...**
- Often this portion of the calendar is one where we slow down; we rest and reflect...

This prayerful reflection is important. We know that Jesus often retreated from His ministry, the noise, and even from His disciples to the wilderness – sometimes climbing a mountain, to go and sit with the Lord in Prayer and Listen...

What I want to talk about today is a way to move into the next year, in light of all that we have experienced...

- In Luke 9, we see a new version of this reflection though... Jesus again climbs a mountain, but this time not alone. He brings along with Him some of His 'core team' – Peter, James, and John.

Some helpful context...

- This is about three years into Jesus' three-and-a-half-year ministry.
- Soon after this, Jesus will begin His determined drive toward the cross...*(Luke 9:51 – "Jesus set His face towards Jerusalem..."*) and even reveals to the disciples that He will die...

- The disciples, though they have travelled with Jesus, witnessed Him perform Miracles and been present with Him, still do not grasp what is to come. They are carrying their own expectations of Him.
- Those expectations have been formed largely through what we call the Law and the Prophets, and we will see them present in the story that we will dive into today...

(Vs.) Luke 9:28-31 (Amplified Version AMP) - Now about eight days after these teachings, He took along Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. As He was praying, the appearance of His face became different [actually transformed], and His clothing became white and flashing with the brilliance of lightning. And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory, and were speaking of His departure [from earthly life], which He was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.

Moses = Law & Elijah = Prophets

- These are characters on the Mount Rushmore of the Hebrew faith.

(Vs.) Luke 9:28-31 (Amplified Version AMP) - Now Peter and those who were with him had been overcome with sleep; but when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and splendor and majesty, and the two men who were standing with Him. And as these [men, Moses and Elijah] were leaving Him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is delightful and good for us to be here; we should make three [sacred] tents; one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"--not realizing what he was saying. But even as he was saying this, a cloud formed and began to overshadow them; and they were [greatly] afraid as they entered the cloud. Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, My Chosen One; listen and obey and yield to Him!" When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found there alone. And they kept silent, and told no one at that time any of the things which they had seen [concerning the divine manifestation].

Yield: to produce especially as a result of cultivation; to give up possession of.

Theologian David Garland has these words today as a result of this passage...

"The Mountain of Transfiguration demands a radical shift in the disciples worldview. They cannot remain the same, for such an unthinkable reality had never before been considered, much less occurred. Jesus as the... Son of God in human form does not fit into any of their philosophical or religious or theological categories..."

"So, they must change, and the change will affect everything. Every thought about reality, activity in their religious behavior, every dream and ambition of their personal lives."

- The Problem: Most of us don't like yielding...
- Now we are going to play with a bit of symbolism here today together from this story... In this story, we see Jesus bring some of His followers on a journey, away from the noise, the distraction. There they see two of the pillars of their life and faith. What they believe in most!
- These are good things, but a voice from Heaven brings a terrifyingly clear message that these "good things" are to yield to Jesus. **Everything is to yield to Jesus.**

Christ lived a fully yielded life. The most impactful life ever lived was a yielded one.

What yielding looks like: I give up possession of what I think is mine...

- My Plans...
- My Works...
- My Desires...

Questions: "Do you see yourself as someone who is sent?"

This has less to do with what you will do but rather how you will do it...

- The teachings of Jesus in the Gospels show us how to steward the life we have been given through the time, place, family, neighbors, talents, and opportunities that are ours.

Many of us secretly want to create a new life, a new us...

- We learn from Jesus how to lead our life, our whole life, our real life. It is precisely this life that God wants us to yield to him...

So again, we yield ourselves to the teachings of Jesus as we enter a new year...

(Vs.) Luke 9:23-25 (ESV) - And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?"

I'd like to offer a simple prayer:

Jesus...

- My plans are yours...
- My works are yours...
- My desires are yours...
- **I am yours!**