



September 25, 2011

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Isaiah 43:18-19

1. The World is changing

- Exodus 3:13-14; 2 Timothy 3:1-5

2. God is not changing

- Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8-9; Revelation 22:13

3. The Message does not change

- John 1:1-3; 1 Peter 1:23-25; Matthew 5:17-18;
Isaiah 55:6-11

4. The Method must change

- John 18:36; Acts 1; 1 Corinthians 9:22-23; Psalm 40:3;
Isaiah 42:9-10, 65:17-18; Jeremiah 31:31;
Lamentations 3:22-23; Ezekiel 11:19; Isaiah 43:18-19

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Pastor Michael O'Neill



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Talking it over (use this for discussion around your table group):

- How is change in life like an unexpected road sign or detour while driving?
- Do most people *outside* the church consider church to be unchanging or often-changing? Do they think the church is relevant or irrelevant? Out of touch or making a difference? Explain your answers.
- What do most people *inside* the church think? (same questions as above). Are those opinions different? Why?
- Name some groups that are slow to change (e.g., schools, government, military, churches). Why are they slow to change? Should they change faster?

Digging Deeper (if you still have time, or for further study later, go through these questions):

- If God doesn't change, how does He keep from being "old-fashioned" or archaic?
- Why is it important to know that God does not change? In what ways does this truth impact our faith?
- If culture is changing all around us, how can the message of God's love be relevant still today?
- If God doesn't change, and the message doesn't change, should the methods change?
- Describe some ways that the church's methods have changed in your lifetime.
- What methods does our church currently use that need to change? Consider your unchurched friends. In light of their lives, what might some new methods look like to reach them with the message?
- Are you willing to let go of favorite methods to reach unchurched people? Spend time in prayer, submitting to the new things that God wants to do in your life and church.
- Re-read through your notes. Review the main points and read the Scripture references that are provided for you.

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