

Sights & Sounds: *You Are More Because of Jesus*

Did you ever notice in life that the people who do bad things get all the news: People involved in crazy drama, shocking public displays, betrayal, sex scandals, crime, even murder. Like in high school, no one seems to care about the good things, like getting accepted into Harvard or MIT. But if a girl gets pregnant, everybody knows about it. You might do a good deed & help a kid who just dropped her books all over the hallway, but nobody seems to notice. But if there's a fight after school, everybody knows about it.

And unfortunately in life, we are often labeled or defined can by bad things that we've done. They can define our reputation. As we fall into bad patterns of thought & behavior, we start to believe all the negatives about ourselves. Then, as time goes on, we just become resolved to this new 'reality' about ourselves and it becomes even easier to believe the negatives and act on them more. "I failed so I must be a failure. So why should I even try anymore?" "People treated me unlovingly, so I must be loveable, so I guess it's ok to be unloving" "I've done too much bad stuff; I'm no good & I can't be forgiven. So why should I even bother to be good or try to change?" "I'm used goods or garbage, so I'll just let people use me bad." Have these thoughts ever popped up in your head? (V1, You Are More).

And we have this nagging knowledge in our heads: "I know what I did..." Once we mess up (sin), it's easy to do it again, it's easy to fall into a bad pattern. Then the guilt & shame comes in. We feel trapped & defined by the bad we do. And then we start to wonder, "Am I the sum total of all that I've done in life? But am I permanently defined by my past choices & mistakes, successes & failures?" Many, many people succumb to this terrible negative personal definition.

PRECHORUS "But don't you know who you are?" It really gets down to how you define yourself or allow yourself to be defined. The artist analogy is so applicable. Can a piece of art (a painting, a sculpture, a song) define itself & tell you what it really is? No, of course not! Did your friends make you? No! Then they can't define you. Did the devil make you? No. Then he can't tell you who you are. Did the society make you? No! Did you make yourself come into existence? No! Then can you fully & truly define yourself? Did the past make you? No! Then the past & all you've done can't truly define you. The only answer is that you were marvelously created by God & only He can truly define you (Eph 2:10) CHORUS "You are more!"

You don't have to stay trapped in your past mistakes & current sins. You don't have to let the past create your present or determine your future, even your *eternal destiny*. Why? Because God made one single way to solve this problem: Jesus came to earth to sacrifice Himself to free you from yourself, sin, devil & everything that destroys you. Because of Jesus' death & resurrection, all who trust in Him are remade new, pure, holy, clean & free (Col 3:2, 2Cor 5:17). All who accept Jesus become new creations! BRIDGE: *it's not about what you've done, but what's been done for you.*

You don't have to stay trapped in your past mistakes & sins. You don't have to let the past create your present & future. The Bible is full of people who failed but were forgiven & restored by God: David, Paul, Peter, the adulterous woman. In modern times, Jesus has set millions of other captives free from their pasts too: *Korn* shock-rockers Brian Welch & Reggie Arvizu, Watergate criminal Chuck Colson, *Jane Roe* case plaintiff & abortionist Norma McCorvey, former prostitute Annie Lobert, psycho-killers Jeffery Dahmer & David Berkowitz. All of these people did terrible things, but none were beyond the saving reach of Jesus Christ & his life-changing power. Their sins are blotted out, forgotten & forgiven by God (Is 43:25, Mi 7:19)

You may know Jesus as your Lord & Savior, but still struggle with the guilt & temptations of the past (VERSE 2). You are not alone in this struggle. You have the very power of God in you (Holy Spirit), the Word of God (Bible), & the body of Christ (people of God) around you to help you. But don't forget, God made you, Jesus died & rose for you, & *you've been remade!*

You don't have to let the past choices, mistakes & sins define you & direct the course of your life. Jesus bought your freedom from the sins of the past & offers you the hope & power to live free from them in the present & future. God knows: You are more!

SCRIPTURES

Eph 2:10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago

Col 2:13 You were dead because of your sins & because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins.

2Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Is 43:25 "I—yes, I alone—will blot out your sins for My own sake and will never think of them again.

Mi 7:19 Once again You will have compassion on us. You will trample our sins under your feet & throw them into the depths of the ocean

Rom 8:1 So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do all the bad things in life and in people lives seem to get all the attention?

2. Read Eph 2:10. A.) How are people often defined in this world? B.) How does God define you & why's this so important?

3. Read Col 2:13 & 2Cor 5:17. A.) Have you ever felt like anyone in the skit or like the words on the chalkboard in the music video? B.) Part of the chorus of says, "You've been remade." How does that tie into the imagery of the water washing the words off the blackboard and what does "You've been remade" really mean?

4. Read Is 43:25 & Micah 7:19. Think of the worst thing that you've ever done or thought to do. Can God forgive that? Why?

5. Read Rom 8:1 & the bridge of *You Are More*. A.) If God doesn't condemn us after we accept Jesus & confess our sins to Him, why do we sometimes condemn ourselves? B.) Where could our feeling & self-condemnation lead us?

6. Tonight, will you trust in Jesus & believe that "You Are More" than your past mistakes & current problems you've made?

Do you truly want to be free from the flawed definitions of yourself? Do you want to be a totally new creation in Jesus Christ?

V1 There's a girl in the corner with tear stains on her eyes
From the places she's wandered and the shame she can't hide
She says, "How did I get here? I'm not who I once was.
And I'm crippled by the fear that I've fallen too far to love"

PRECHORUS But don't you know who you are, What's been done for you? Yeah don't you know who you are?

CHORUS You are more than the choices that you've made,
You are more than the sum of your past mistakes,
You are more than the problems you create, You've been remade.

V2 Well she tries to believe it that she's been given new life
But she can't shake the feeling that it's not true tonight
She knows all the answers and she's rehearsed all the lines
And so she'll try to do better but then she's too weak to try

BRIDGE 'Cause this is not about what you've done,
but what's been done for you.

This is not about where you've been,
but where your brokenness brings you to.

This is not about what you feel, but what He felt to forgive you,
And what He felt to make you loved.

CHORUS You are more than the choices that you've made,
You are more than the sum of your past mistakes,
You are more than the problems you create, You've been remade.