

Be Ready...because NEW won't look like you thought.

Have you decided on your One Thing? Are you working toward it? Are you ready for God to bring it?

3 Predictions for what NEW will look like...

1. When you pursue God's NEW you will end up in circumstances you didn't plan.

Read Matthew 3:1-6, 13-17. John the Baptist was the last Old Testament Prophet. He came preparing the way for the Lord, preaching the kingdom of Heaven, but Jesus did not come as John had thought. After baptizing Jesus, Jesus immediately disappeared for 40 days and when He returned He began His own public ministry. They did not team up. Read John 3:17-30. This caused confusion and John found himself needing to point his own disciples toward Jesus, too.

2. You will reach points of surrender you didn't anticipate.

Read Mark 6:17-19. Soon after, John found himself in prison. Things were not going according to his expectations. He had spent his life preaching the Messiah. He had picked the One Thing, Built Momentum, Climbed the Ladder, Built New Shrines, Managed the Tension and yet found himself suffering alone. Read 2 Corinthians 1: 8-9. John was learning to rely on God at new levels. Read Matthew 11:2-3. This suffering caused even John to wonder if Jesus was the guy.

3. You will be drawn to an intimacy you hadn't known.

Read Matthew 11:11:4-6. Jesus wanted John to hear all that was happening in the lives of people as an encouragement and testament. He was saying, "John, you can trust me." John didn't survive the NEW. Read Mark 6:27-28 and Matthew 11:11. He was executed. Jesus praised John for his willingness to surrender and become less. Read Luke 9:23. As believers, when we suffer for Jesus, we share in Christ's experience and gain a fuller understanding of the actual work Jesus did on the cross on our behalf.

Remember...in pursuing God's NEW, His goal is a NEW You!

NEXT STEPS

Are you ready to trust God and experience a new level of intimacy? Are you ready to surrender and become less? Will you choose griping or growing?

Take time to think through questions you might have for God. Ask Him to show you where He is working in the lives around you. Look for checkpoints where you might need to surrender and become more readily accepting of His plan. Expect new levels of intimacy.