

Transformed /Not Reformed

1. **Object Lesson** (subject is not spiritual-learning and stewardship can be)

(Recycling materials-in nature they are reduced to basic building blocks-carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, etc perpetually-God is perfect.

(Mankind has learned crude methods to recycle-for example to turn some plastic into more plastic-pollution, energy, inefficient)

Plastics in everything (now finding micro plastics in the placenta of newborns, oceans becoming clogged and landfills overflowing.

- **Object:- plastic water bottles-ubiquitous** (first part of change is to acknowledge there is a problem)

Although the US leads the world in the consumption of bottled water, (over 60 million thrown away **per day**) at 26 billion litres in 2004, the bottled water craze is a global phenomenon. According to Beverage Marketing Corporation, worldwide consumption reached 154 billion litres (41 billion gallons) in 2004, an increase of 57% in five years.

- **Problem:** billions thrown away, quality of water questionable if its better than tap water, many bottles not recyclable, clogging waters/landfills, cheapest are not economically recyclable. Water in plastic bottles in first world countries is a novelty of convenience, in much of the world it is insurance of clean water.

- **Reforming change possibilities:**

- 1. **Recycle the water bottles? Recycling of this type of plastic is economically unfeasible on grand scale** (petrochemical compares knew this and deceived the public decades ago) and if recycled they can only make more plastic things-cannot reduce back to elements as in nature. China no longer will accept our trash and plastic to separate.

- 2. **Use less plastic bottles, or reuse the bottles?** Hard to know how many is too many, hard to turn around global attitudes, reusing bottles allows microbes and germs to embed in plastic, actually quite porous, forgery to refill, crack, etc

- 3. **Invent new plastics?** that are more recyclable, educate people on recycling benefits, create government subsidies to deflect the cost of recycling. It is still plastic that never goes away, people don't care, don't need more government.

- **So What are some Transforming Answers?** (*Hint-none of them have to do with the bottle*)

2. **A Longing for 'Next Year in Zion'- Desire for a Mighty Change in Us - a Transforming Change**

Read Romans 12:1&2

Not conforming (nothing in the world can change the heart of our spiritual problems-not politics, not education, not talk shows)

Not reforming (not the same line of thinking, not the same habit forming attitudes and actions, not our reformed thinking)

Transforming: living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, a renewed mind, good, acceptable, perfect will of God.

Read Alma 3: 27-33

3. The Holy Spirit (HS) as the Agent/Guide for Transforming Change

Transforming change is not only real change, it is also transforming in the **reason**, **method** and **power** for change.

(exs: MLK & the civil rights, Ghandi/British rule, laying down of weapons of the Anti-Lehi-Nephi; greatest of all was life of Jesus)

Transforming change is thoughtful change, purposeful change, determined change, dynamic change, lasting change.

Enticings of the HS for transforming change

(King Benjamin's speech-BOM)

Read Mosiah 1:119-have to yield.

Read Mosiah 2:2-6-resulting transforming real change

Alma 10:7 And now my brethren, I wish from the inmost part of my heart, yea, with great anxiety, even unto pain, that ye would hearken unto my words, and cast off your sins, and not procrastinate the day of your repentance;

28 But that ye would humble yourselves before the Lord, and call on his holy name, and watch and pray continually that ye may not be tempted above that which ye can bear, and thus **be led by the Holy Spirit**, becoming humble, meek, submissive, patient, full of love and all long suffering; having faith on the Lord;

1. Cast off your sins (*quit trying to justify, modify, quantify, sinfulness-instead pursue change in thought, purpose, habit, determination*)
2. Call on His holy name (*quit trying to think we have all the power and intelligence to rid ourselves of bondage of sin, know all our sins*)
3. Watch and pray continually (*quit trying to believe sin will go away on its own, we will outgrow it, there is a magic wand at death*)
4. Led by HS becoming *humble, meek, submissive, patient, full of love and all long suffering*; having faith on the Lord;

Helaman 8:29 And the first-fruits of repentance is baptism; and baptism cometh by faith, unto the fulfilling the commandments; and the fulfilling the commandments bringeth remission of sins; and the *remission of sins bringeth meekness, and lowliness of heart; and because of meekness and lowliness of heart, cometh the* **visitation of the Holy Ghost**, which Comforter filleth with hope and perfect love, which love endureth by diligence unto prayer, until the end shall come, when all the saints shall dwell with God.

D&C 45:10b And at that day when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins; for they that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived, ...

1st John 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not continue in sin; for the Spirit of God remaineth in him; and he cannot continue in sin, because he is born of God, having received that Holy Spirit of promise.

Next week? Charity, the Love of God, as the catalyst for transforming change from bad habits, through the working of the Holy Ghost.

