

## FRIDAY DEVOTION - GATEKEEPERS WORKCAMP 2018

**Romans 12:1-2: I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.**

It's Friday, and your work is almost done! There were probably times this week when you thought you would never get here, times you wondered if your crew would be able to make a real difference for the homeowner with whom you have worked, times you questioned if you have what it takes to do this work.

In our devotions this week, we have thought a lot about change. What does it mean for Jesus to change us from the inside out? How can change be both good and challenging? How can we work to overcome obstacles and struggles in order to work for change in our community? As we grow and change throughout all of life, these are important questions for us and for our faith.

In today's passage, we look once more to Paul's words, this time to the church in Rome, to find out what is the ultimate purpose of the change we seek. Why does our faith call us to be transformed in the first place? For Paul, as it was with Jesus, the reason we seek to be transformed is to that we will be better able to discover God's will.

Sometimes life would be much easier if God would just send us a text or an email or thunder in a booming voice out of the clouds so that we would know for certain what God wants us to do. But God doesn't work that way. Instead, calls us to a journey of seeking and discovering, knowing that it in the very process of growing and changing that we learn to see God at work more clearly. This is perhaps why Jesus so often taught in parables instead of giving straightforward rules and solutions. The journey of our faith is one of discerning God's perfect will and allowing it to mold and transform us more fully into the image of Christ.

This week has been important moment in that journey. We have all had the chance to be challenged and stretched, to learn through our successes and our failures, to work alongside people from different backgrounds, and to give of ourselves to bring about change in the home and in the life of a neighbor. We have been the faces and hands and hearts of God to one another and to our community. It is incredible and humbling that God trusts us with this work of the Kingdom of God. Even with all our doubts and limitations God gives us the privilege and responsibility of meeting the needs of others and showing them the love of Christ. So, it is no accident that you were here this week. It was not by chance that you were placed in one another's lives or in the life of the homeowner with whom you worked. God called you here to help to change the lives of others, and, even though you may not fully realize how, you were changed, too.

\*Reflect on what you and your crew have experienced and accomplished this week. What were your successes? Your challenges? What surprised you? How have you been a servant? How have you seen God at work? As you go into the weeks ahead, think and pray about your Gatekeepers experience. How might you use what you have learned this week to continue to grow and change so that you will become more like Christ? What are some the ways you can continue to work for positive change in our community?

Pray that God will bless our efforts so that our community might be changed. Pray for our homeowners, that God will bless their homes, their families and their lives. Pray that God will give you the courage and the willingness to continue to love and serve others in order to meet their needs, improve life throughout our community, and change your heart as well. (Ask someone to close in prayer.)