

Good morning,

Someone has said, "If nothing changes, nothing changes." I've thought about that for myself and have had related discussions with lots of people on that topic.



I think of Jesus looking up at Zaccheus in the tree (*Luke 19:1-10*) in Jericho. He invited himself over to Zaccheus' place for a visit even before Zaccheus said anything. What a surprise that must have been. Others were already grumbling about it. Zaccheus decided to meet this surprising change with a change of his own. Reinvention of himself began.

I also recall the woman about to be stoned because of adultery (*John 8:1-11*). Jesus intervened with that group of angry people as though he was lifting up a mirror to them: "**let the one without sin cast the first stone.**" All the stones fell to the ground. The woman must have been astonished at the change in them. When Jesus turned and said to her, "**Go and sin no more,**" he wasn't being judgmental. It was another way of saying, "If nothing changes, nothing changes." She could reinvent herself, but not by falling back into the familiar routine that led to the problem in the first place.

Christ loves us and wants the best for us. It is helpful if we can listen and hear him that way. If nothing changes, nothing changes.

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Please note that there will be a *Memorial Service for Robert Dennison* at Hope on Saturday morning, July 27 at 10:00 a.m. The Lord is his Shepherd.

Offerings of cakes and/or cookies are needed for the fellowship time following the memorial service on Saturday. They can be dropped off at the church. Thank you.

Coming up at Hope:

July 26 @ 8:30 a.m. *Men's Group* in person and on Zoom

July 27 @ **10:00 a.m.** Memorial Service for **Robert Dennison** at Hope Lutheran Church

July 28 @ 10:00 a.m. *Sunday Worship* (Zoom opens at 9:30 a.m.)

The Sunday service and invitation to Zoom for worship on Sunday will appear in your email as usual on Saturday morning.

The Lord is with you.
Pastor Terry