



COFFEE & CONVERSATION

August 13, 2019



Faithful Faith in a Changing World

We live in a time of great, constant, and ongoing change. Sociologist Zygmunt Bauman calls the time in which we live “Liquid Modernity” to insist upon the observation that where our life values, culture and institutional systems seemed to be built on solid, stable foundations in the past, they now seem to be liquid foundations which make a steady life, perception of life, and cultural norms quite difficult, if not impossible. There are several ways to respond to this liquid modernity, massive change in which we live.

Accommodation:

1 something supplied for convenience or to satisfy a need: such as

a lodging, food, and services or traveling space and related services —

b: a public conveyance (such as a train) that stops at all or nearly all points or c: LOAN

2: the act of accommodating someone or something :

a: the providing of what is needed or desired for convenience

b: ADAPTATION, ADJUSTMENT
an accommodation to temporary conditions

c : a reconciliation of differences : SETTLEMENT

Jean Piaget described

accommodation as an acquisition of knowledge or learning which challenged an existing schema to the extent that the old schema could no longer exist in its previously existing form.

Assimilation:

1a : an act, process, or instance of assimilating
The clash of lifestyles has made assimilation difficult.

2 : the incorporation or conversion of nutrients into protoplasm that in animals follows digestion and absorption and in higher plants involves both photosynthesis and root absorption

3 : the process of receiving new facts or of responding to new situations in conformity with what is already available to consciousness

Jean Piaget described

Assimilation as where the new ideas which are acquired can fit in with an existing schema without changing the original schema too much.

Collaboration:

1 : to work jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavor

An international team of scientists collaborated on the study.

2 : to cooperate with or willingly assist an enemy of one's country and especially an occupying force suspected of collaborating with the enemy

3 : to cooperate with an agency or instrumentality with which one is not immediately connected

Adjust/Adapt:

: to make fit (as for a new use) often by modification adapt the curriculum to students' needs intransitive verb

: to become adapted adapt to a new environment
1 : to adapt or conform oneself (as to new conditions)

adjust to the new regulations
Our eyes gradually adjusted to the darkness.

2 : to achieve mental and behavioral

Faithfulness:

- What does it mean to be faithful to what Jesus promised and commanded? How do we – how do you – understand and do it in today's world, 2,000 years after Jesus with all of our cultural, technological, philosophical and scientific discoveries and changes?
- To be faithful to our faith do we have to reject all change, ignore it, resist it, accept it, interpret it, accommodate to it?
- Where is the line (or is there one) between faithfulness and accommodation or collaboration? How do you define it? How do you identify it in your own life?; in the life of others?
- We live in a time of massive disruption and cultural change. What do you navigate it with for your faith?

SOME KEY TEACHINGS OF JESUS THAT CONFRONT OUR CHANGING CULTURAL PARAMETERS:

³⁴ [Jesus] called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?

Mark 8

¹³ [Jesus taught] "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' ³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; ⁴⁰ and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; ⁴¹ and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. ⁴² Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5

¹⁷ As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰ He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

Mark 10