

## Change, Loss and Transformation

Almighty and everlasting God, you cover all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Look

If you Google for “sayings about change” you get more than 18 million references. As humans, we know that change is inevitable, but we don’t necessarily embrace it. Change can easily hail the loss of the familiar, and the arrival of the unknown, both of which bring strong emotions.

1. What is a change taking place in your life right now that is evoking powerful emotions?
2. What sorts of changes are most difficult for you to deal with?
3. What sort of support do you reach out for during times of change?

### Book

**Luke 4:21–30**

Jesus shows up in his home town to preach his first sermon as he embark on his ministry. This initiates a change in the way people will see him, particularly those that have known him all his previous life.

1. How does Jesus’ message (v21 and v25–27) signal the change in his ministry in a very challenging light for the crowd assembled?
2. What sort of attitude change of the Nazarene crowd is shown by the contrast between v22 and v28–29?
3. How do you interpret the description of Jesus’ departure from the scene? (v30)

### Took

Change can be approached in many ways. If we allow selfishness to control us, we tend to focus on the losses associated with that change. However if we let faith guide us, that change can become real transformation for all involved.

1. How do our own egos get in the way of us viewing the possible blessings of a change?
2. What can we do to help each other more faithfully engage with change?
3. What one change taking place in your life can you add a little faith to in order to open up to real transformation?