

# Called to Change

**Jimmy Marco**



It seems like I was a monster most of my life in just about every way you can think of. I've struggled with ADHD from birth and tried many things to find a balance. Although I asked Jesus into my heart at the age of 10 at a bible camp, I really didn't know what it was about and my parents didn't support religion of any kind. I soon dropped it by the side of the road and for the next 30 years it seems Jesus pursued me to follow him, even though I turned away. It started with pot at 14 years old and pornography was a big deal for me also.

By age 24 I was addicted to meth and my cause was white supremacy. I was recruited as a teenager to believe one race was better than another. That in itself is terrible but to be part of the group I had to also shake down our own people to collect money and other things. Most people don't realize what is behind the gang mentality. No matter what the gang stands for, there is always crime behind the scenes to promote the cause.

I went through depression and thoughts of suicide. I even attempted suicide a few times, sometimes calling on Jesus but still I would walk away from him when things got a little bit better. I went in and out of jail, praying for help, but still not giving my life to God completely.

I finally ended up in prison and had some time where God could get my attention. I cried out to him once again but this time I was done. I was tired of trying to do it my way. After a little while I heard Jesus say, "what about me?" I didn't want that life anymore, so I began to study and pray for a long time. Before I got out of prison, I heard the Lord tell me he wanted me to preach his word, to love God and his people. Part of me balked for a few years, and I said, "who me?" It took five years of him cutting away my old life and making me a new creation to even realize my real need for him. And He is still cutting away more and more until I can be my best for him.

I came to the Salt Lake City Mission to be discipled and grow in Christ. It was one thing to get past the drugs and life style I lived but now I need to grow up and reach my potential. Since I've been in the program, I have received my associates and bachelors degree in Christian studies. I'm now working on my master and I'm excited about my future with God and his people.

Since Jesus took over my life, I just want to please him. In just the last few years has he taught me about his grace, his love and power. I have such a desire to not only get my life together but encourage others that there is hope and help if they are willing. I look forward to our daily outreaches at the mission to share God's goodness to anyone that is willing to receive it. - January 2011