



"Cross Connection"

Radio Ministry of Hope Wesleyan Church and Wells of Salvation Ministries
Ultimate Oldies Radio – FM 97.7 and 101.1, Huber Heights, Ohio



Series: Christian Messages In Secular Music

2/18/09

Program 72 "Waiting On The World To Change" © John Mayer

*Change the world, change the world,
We can change the world through pow'r in Jesus name!*¹

The Song²

- First single released from John Mayer's 2006 studio album, *Continuum*, which won *Best Pop Vocal Album* at the 2007 Grammy Awards
 - Featured song won Mayer the *Best Male Pop Vocal Performance* award
- Inspired by Curtis Mayfield
- Expresses discontent with world conditions, and attributes lack of action on the part of the singer's generation to a lack of power
- Alludes to hope... i.e., when the writer's generation assumes the reins of leadership

"...[perhaps] the most spineless social-justice song ever written. It advocates a passive approach, whereas the song it most closely resembles --- Curtis Mayfield's classic "People Get Ready" --- urges everyone to get involved, or risk being left behind"

– Greg Kot, *Chicago Tribune*¹

"...a lovely and anger-free ode to a vaguely dissatisfied generation,..."

-- Kelefa Sanneh, *New York Times*¹

- Peaked at #14 on Billboard Hot 100 Singles Chart; stayed on charts for 41 weeks
- Hit #1 on Hot Adult Contemporary Chart, remaining on chart for over a year

The Artist – John Mayer (1977 -)³

- American musician from Connecticut; attended Berklee College of Music
- First two studio albums achieved multi-platinum status
- Won Best Male Pop Vocal Performance Grammy Awards in 2003 and 2007
- Began career focused on acoustic rock, but gradually transitioned toward the blues
 - Influenced by blues legends; collaborated with B.B. King, Eric Clapton
- A renaissance man; career pursuits have included stand-up comedy, design, writing
- Philanthropic activities include his "Back to You" fund – supporting health care and education needs; also supports efforts to counter global warming
- Speaks Japanese
- Has earned numerous awards for songwriting and recordings
- Hits include "Your Body Is A Wonderland", "No Such Thing", "Why Georgia", "Daughters"
- Formed the John Mayer Trio in 2005

¹ Chorus from "Change The World", by Dallas Holm, from 1985 album of same name

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waiting_on_the_World_to_Change

³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Mayer

Me and all my friends
We're all misunderstood
They say we stand for nothing and
There's no way we ever could

Now we see everything that's going wrong
With the world and those who lead it
We just feel like we don't have the means
To rise above and beat it

"'Cheer up,' they said, 'things could get worse.' So I did. And sure enough, they did!" – Anonymous

Jesus gave us signs of the end of the age (see Mat.24)...

- *...nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom..."*
- *"You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars..."*
- *"Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold"*
- *"Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many"*

So we keep waiting
Waiting on the world to change
We keep on waiting
Waiting on the world to change

It's hard to beat the system
When we're standing at a distance
So we keep waiting
Waiting on the world to change

- Do Christians have a responsibility to get involved?
- If so, when, where and how?

"The call of the Messianic Age is to transform ourselves and then the world around us in the image of Jesus.... Being a part of the world means that we have a role in Christ's ministry. We are called to work for peace and justice, healing and reconciliation all in the name of the one who is the Messiah, Jesus the Christ." -- Rev. Jeff Gatlin, Louisville, KY ⁴

"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me" – John 17:25

Now if we had the power
To bring our neighbors home from war
They would have never missed a Christmas
No more ribbons on their door
And when you trust your television
What you get is what you got
Cause when they own the information, oh
They can bend it all they want

dis-en-fran-chise -- ...2. to deprive of a privilege, right, or power ⁵

"...whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves" – Romans 13:2

That's why we're waiting
Waiting on the world to change
We keep on waiting
Waiting on the world to change

It's not that we don't care,
We just know that the fight ain't fair
So we keep on waiting
Waiting on the world to change

And we're still waiting
Waiting on the world to change
We keep on waiting
Waiting on the world to change

One day our generation
Is gonna rule the population
So we keep on waiting
Waiting on the world to change
We keep on waiting
Waiting on the world to change

Considering what lies ahead, according to Scripture...

- Is change always for the better?

Consider Jesus' instruction to the Church at Philadelphia in the face of persecution and adversity:

"Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have" -- Revelation 3:10, (emphasis added)

- Might there be times when Christians should focus more on prayerfully maintaining the faith, and less on changing the world's circumstances?

After change for the worse, change for the better comes!

"In the last days..."

*He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore" – Isaiah 2:2a,4, NIV*

Final Thoughts:

Can you think of a time when there have been no problems in the world? I can't either. With rare exception, it's likely that we would all like to help make the world a better place. One key advantage for Christians, however, is that God has revealed to us the entire panorama of human history in His word. We thus know that the first child ever born became a murderer, and we know what becomes of this world in the future.

Concerning problems around us:

- This song says let's just wait around for change and hope it happens
- Curtis Mayfield said let's tackle them head on
- Dallas Holm, however, called on Christians to "...change the world through power in Jesus' Name!" (see opening quote in these notes)

But Christians must recognize that efforts to improve the world must be led by the Holy Spirit, and executed in the power of God. If we address the problems around us in our own strength and through plans of our own design apart from prayer, we will surely become disillusioned and apathetic as the writer of this song alludes for his own generation.

The Bible says...

"Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain..." – Psalm 127:1a

Can we change the world for the better through Jesus Christ? Certainly! But God's word is true and will never pass away. It describes how world conditions will worsen as we near the end of the age, before Jesus returns. Clearly, our challenge and commission is to share Christ, and the hope that we have, with those who need Him!

* * * * *