

Translated, born or saved, just get inside.

John 3 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.” ³ In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”⁵ Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.....⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’

What is significant here is the fact that Nicodemus is one of the Pharisees and an important leader. This is not a religious visit, it far more political and strategic for Nic.

There are many metaphors used to describe the experience of “coming to Christ”. And indeed this is a goal for most churches and ministries. Get the lost saved.

*Col 1*¹³ For he has rescued us from the one who rules in the kingdom of darkness, and he has brought us into the Kingdom of his dear Son.NLT
¹³ who did rescue us out of the authority of the darkness, and did translate us into the reign of the Son of His love,..YLT

*Gal 1*⁴ who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age...NIV

*John 4*¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”NIV

We are taking this month to look at this event in our lives. The process is called evangelism. But this is just the beginning. It is not the goal.

In the Kingdom context it is actually immigration from one kingdom to another. The revelation we spoke of last week is not so much the

revelation for the salvation process it is for us to have a revelation of the Kingdom of God. There is a place of safety, a place of dominion and a place of multiplication (prosperity).

The gospel (good news) of the Kingdom of God was and should be preached.

This is the message Jesus preached.

Luke 4 The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. ⁴³ But he said, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.” ⁴⁴ And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

This is the message His disciples preached.

*Acts 28*³¹ Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

He wanted everyone to know the nature of the Kingdom. What it would be like to live under the governing hand of God. But He also wanted them to know the cost of not responding to the revelation of the Kingdom. He is saying there are only two kingdoms that matter. One, the Kingdom of God and the other the Kingdom of satan.

Mark 9 : 43-49

Immigration essential (translation, saved, born again).

The law merely helps us to understand one of the most vital conditions to gain immigration status.

Rom 7 Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law.

When we come into the Kingdom we find a totally different culture.

Culture → customs, food, clothes, language, values,

Two distinguishing things are the food and commodities.

Mercedes Benz, Audi, BMW, VW which country?.....

Pizza, Spaghetti, Pasta which country?.....

Tacos, Enchiladas, chilli beans which country?.....

Biltong, boerewors, koeksisters, melktert which country?.....

Rom 14 ¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,...

These are the commodities of the Kingdom of God wherever it is preached. It is this which distinguishes us. They are the most scarce commodities in the world and the most expensive but free to those who have immigrated.

The first time I went to Thailand was a real culture shock for me. Climate, food, transport, language, clothes everything was different.

The greatest culture difference possible is the one between the Kingdoms of God and satan.

Revelation comes to us, we respond, feel the burden of our sin, repent, and broken fall on our knees and ask the Lord to accept me in His Kingdom. This all happens in an instant. It is not a 14hr plane journey. It happens instantly. Our spirits are renewed, our bodies benefit and our souls try to catch up. One of the greatest challenges is to get our mind, will and emotions to line up with the new culture.

The greatest cause of death of Americans in the UK is motor accidents. South Africans in America too, I suppose. In a different culture it is not necessarily instant culture adjustment.

It is helpful even imperative to have a guide, someone who can orientate us to the new culture. It is also helpful to have a home (Singapore and dengue fever). This is what discipleship is about.

Discipleship and church are not optional.

1 Tim 5 ¹⁷ The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially those whose work is preaching(kingdom) and teaching (Jesus) .

We will be useless for the Kingdom of God if we just grow up on the streets. It is the father of the house (apostles) who instruct us and disciples build us up in order to be aligned to the will of the King. To help us keep our immigration status.

Group notes

Ice breaker.

1. What is your favourite foreign cultural experience?
2. Which foreign foods do you like?
3. Which foreign country would you like to visit, what attracts you to that culture?

What's the Word on it?

Matt 3:1-2,8; Mark 6:12; Matt 6:22-24; John 3:1-21; John 12:42-50. See the Scriptures from the sermon notes.

Many people see the experienced of being saved as the goal of our faith but it clearly is not, it is merely the passport to the Kingdom of God. This was clear in Jesus' teaching. The passport is important but not the goal. It is important to have a "guide" in a new culture, in the Kingdom of God this guide is called a disciple. Make sure you are one.

Questions for the group.

1. What has been a new discovery for you regarding being an immigrant into the Kingdom of God?
2. In order to immigrate from the kingdom of darkness to God's Kingdom some conditions need to be met, what are they?
3. How did you get your "immigration status?"
4. What makes it easier to navigate, communicate, stay on the right side of the law and be productive in God's Kingdom upon immigration?
5. Who are you helping (discipling) to become established in the Kingdom and who is helping (discipling) you?
6. Many Americans die in the UK because of motor accidents, this is because they have go so used to driving on the right hand side of the road and in a new culture have to drive on the left, what are the things from the old culture that threaten your safety in the new culture of the Kingdom?

Prayer

Pray for those who are not sure of their immigration status and pray for healing etc.