

Vignette 6: The Church and the World!
Spirit Life, Part 17
Slide Notations

Spirit Life Vignettes... Watching the outflow! Removing the sep's/expletives/euphemisms! Watching the "inflow!" What goes in is what's coming out! Fighting for our families! Reestablishing God's norm! Understanding the church! Clarifying who & what we are! Living on the Word of God! So have nothing to fake!

Left off... Church is: People showing off! **A26** People acting "up!" **J3.29** People adventuring out! **2C12.15 A20.24, 21.13** People taking orders from the Head! **1C12.27** People coming together for worship, instruction **A20.7** and fellowship! **1C12** People getting other people saved! **Mt 28/Mk16**

Once saved... All the discipleship, living and serving is for the single purpose of "others salvation!"

All the instruction, healing, prosperity, peace, soundness and wholeness is a base for the salvation of others!

What do we do? We get people saved! Proclaiming the One who is the only way to the Father! **J14.6 E2.18 Heb 10.19-23** We make it possible for many people to be in heaven, "to receive us." **Lk16.9** We partner together in ministry/ministers/ missions/ benevolence. **2C9** We duplicate our mentality in next-gen's to carry on the mission-tradition w/o carrying on/carried out over methodologies! **1C11.1**

"Retro" is cool until it becomes habitual then it goes from fun to eccentric to unique to antique...

Last Year! We were a church that got people saved! 245 salvations so far this year! (You still have time to add 100's more!) 1000+ foreign missions. Vida, our Spanish expression of Life...507! Proves we were right in \$\$ Spanish Church! Many Spanish speaking people coming to find the American Dream...Not tapping into the source of American success –! Water/Spirit Baptisms – hundreds...

Last Year! 752 first time salvations praiseworthy! But you have to get the whole picture! Don't want to see what we want to see! Want to see what God sees!

If not one more person moved to Angleton... Not one more baby born here...Every one kept dying normal rate...20 years to accomplish the salvation mission "set on" to just one BC city!

This Coming Year! Need the Church @ Life to be a Church of Life like never before! In the face of such great moral upheaval resulting social/eco/politico conflicts... *Need people with great ideas...* People who assess/create/enable! *Need people with giant hearts...* People see/say/do service! *Need people with consistent obedience...* People up & away, not up & down givers!

This Coming Year! Must be the Church & people of His Word! *Goal not memorization but "memory!"* Committing facts to storage vs. recalling, returning to previous shape! *Goal not information but inspiration!* Measure of knowledge vs. inhalation, stimulation, incarnation of the Word! *Goal not accumulation but assimilation!* Not packed hard drive but Word metabolizing in your "tissue!"

Today... Try to join last two vignettes... Church being people who are focused on the salvation of others... Church established, enabled, enacting on the Word...

John 3.1-3 There was a man named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, who came to Jesus by night and said, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Aside w/the Head of the Church... If the conversation was actually that abrupt... we can learn something from Jesus getting to the point of an encounter! If there was more, we can learn from Jesus the overall focus and intended end of every talk with a “friend!”

A focus on condition and destination! A shift from transitory to eternity!

John 3.4,5 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

Musterion! v12 “Heavenly things” that must be revealed!

John 3.14-16 Like Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness and all who saw it were healed... The Son of Man will be lifted up... so that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life! For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever would believe in Him would not perish but have everlasting life!

John 3.17-19 God sent His Son, not to condemn the world but to save it! He that believes is not condemned. He that believes not is condemned already because he believes not in the name of the Son... and this is their condemnation: that light is come into the world and they loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil!

New conversation or explanation?

From the Text... Religious guy, not secure! Comes to Source! **v2** Before he could ask, or having asked, what must I do to be secured? Jesus says, “Not secure w/o being born again!” **v3 (v4 “Huh?”) v5** Flesh, just flesh, including man-religion... **v6** Spirit Life, only by Spirit things... “Don’t be confused because I’m talking about things you can’t see... **v7** Can’t see the wind, but “know” effects! **v8** Birth in Spirit just as real/flesh birth! “I’m telling you what I know... **v11** “You have to think higher... **v12** “I have come down w/what you need to know to help you understand... **v13**

Head-Shot... “Must be born again!” Clearly stated, 2x! ***Do you believe Jesus telling the truth?*** Or is this just a “western idea”/religion? What does it mean? Must be seen/perceived/believed/received as the One, sent, to die for a person’s sins! Light? His is the name of salvation! Darkness? There are other ways, easier ways, less accountable ways!

How does it happen...? **Romans 10.1ff** My heart’s desire and prayer to God for my brothers is that they might be saved... they try so hard to establish their own righteousness but can’t submit themselves to the righteousness of God – in Christ! The righteousness of God speaks like this: The Word of God is near, even in your mouth and heart; it’s a word of faith: “That if you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and will believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved! For with the heart a man believes unto righteousness with God and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation – Whosoever believes on Him will not be ashamed – whoever calls on His name will be saved!

Do you believe this? Is it true for you because it works for you? Do you believe it is true for all humanity? Then you will say it as clearly as your Lord said it!

Head-Shot... “Except a man is born again of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God!” Uh Oh! Feel a Head-ache coming on! Many people believe He is talking about water and Holy Spirit baptisms... “cannot enter the kingdom w/o water!” “cannot enter w/o H.S. baptism!” Shaped theology/security on it!

2Timothy 2.15, 3.16 “Study to show yourselves approved unto God, a workman who won’t be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth... the Word has been given to us by God’s own breath and is profitable for instruction, conviction, correction and training in righteousness that the man of God may be mature, equipped for all good works!”

Shot to the head... Jesus can’t be talking about water baptism as a mechanism of salvation because water does not remit sins! John, as forerunner, came preaching the kingdom/near, “turn around” and be baptized for the remission of sins... **Mk1.4, Lk 3.3**

His preaching pricked their conscience... And They lined up for “public declaration...” (because of the nearness) But not one person saved by baptism! Prepared for the Lamb, but not saved! How could they be, Jesus hadn’t died yet!

Shot to the head... We believe in water baptism... but not as the mechanism of salvation! It’s thru faith in His blood shed for us that we are saved! **R3.23-26** By His blood He obtained eternal redemption for us... for w/o blood there is no remission of sins! **Heb 9.12ff** This cup is My blood of the new covenant which is shed for the remission of sins! **M26**

Can be saved w/o water/Spirit baptism... Can’t be saved w/o decision to believe/blood

So what about... People who have been told they are safe, secure, because they were “baptized in/with/water” when they were babies? How will they feel if they find out a day too late, wasn’t true, weren’t safe at all? Who is responsible? Player 1, 2 or 3?

The Church that wants to be the Church, bound to the Truth, what do we do? We open gentle, real, conversations w/those opposing themselves... 2T2.25

After: “be strong; endure hardness; keep life simple; endure what you must so others may obtain salvation; study to show yourselves approved; shun moronic, pointless talking” **2.1-16**; Paul says, **2Timothy 2.24-26** the servants of God don’t quarrel but teach in meekness those who oppose themselves so God has a shot at bringing them to repentance by acknowledging the truth that they may recover themselves who are taken alive from the trap of the devil!