

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: April 22nd 2018

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: The Challenge of Dual Citizenship

Introduction: This talk explores what we can learn from the way that Moses responded to his dual-heritage: as an Egyptian prince and as a Hebrew slave.

Review: Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

Read: Exodus 2:11-24 & Acts 7:20-22

Reflect :

- We are not given any details about Moses' 40 years inside Pharaoh's palace: but what are we told? (Acts 7:22 & Hebrew 11:24-26).
- What parallels do you see between Moses and Daniel (Daniel 1:3-8)?
- Both Daniel and Moses grew up in an education system that was alien to their identity as members of God's nation. What risks were there for them in those positions?
 - In what sense do Christians in the UK receive their education and formation in an 'alien nation'? What lessons do we learn from our culture, that may be different to those of the Kingdom of God?
 - What strategies can we adopt to be like Moses and Daniel? How can we discern and resist unhelpful messages that draw us away from the principles of God's kingdom?
- Read Philippians 2:20; Colossians 1:13; 1 Peter 2:9-11
 - If we think of ourselves as really being (a) a citizen of heaven? (b) a member of God's kingdom and (c) part of a chosen race, what difference does that make to our ordinary daily lives?
 - Why does Peter give the advice that he offers in v11? And what does it mean, practically?
- Two mistakes that Christians sometimes make are that, in thinking of ourselves as part of a 'Holy Nation', we have the right to either withdraw from our own culture or, on the other hand, to criticise and attack our own culture.
 - What do these passages say that our stance should be: 2 Corinthians 5:20; 1 Peter 2:12; Luke 6:27-31?
- Try to sum up tonight's session by creating three 'top tips' for maintaining your identity as a member of God's Holy People, and three 'top tips' for how to engage with daily life distinctively as a Christian ambassador.

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond
and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**

Thornbury Baptist Church:

Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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