

**The Moral Dilemma
Citizenship
Newport News
10/31/20**

Opening

- dismiss kids
- pray for our nation
- comments about the series

Introduction

-One of the reasons there is so much discord among Christians due to political strife is because citizenship is misplaced.

- Philippians 3:20
- Ephesians 2:19
- Hebrews 11:15-16

-Why does misplaced citizenship create discord, especially political discord?

-The citizenship with which I most identify gives me my most instructive culture. (do you recognize these themes?) (these are from The New Testament World by Bruce J. Malina)

- **Perception (for example, western culture has an abundance...)**
- **Feeling**
- **Acting**
- **Believing (timeless truth, moral boundaries, political ideals)**
- **Admiring**
- **Striving**

-(draw two overlapping circles) - this is us at salvation...

-(draw a smaller circle within a bigger circle) - this should be us...we should forsake any cultural norm that is in conflict with the culture of the Kingdom of Heaven.

-3 Consequences: **Destiny Derailed, Miracles Missed, Rest Relinquished**

Destiny Derailed

-The Barzillai (bar-zill-eye) Factor

-Nehemiah 7:63-65

-Barzillai the Gileadite from (2 Samuel 17:27-29)

-there was a Mesopotamian cultural practice (not a Jewish practice) that a father who had no sons could arrange a marriage for a daughter and the husband would take the daughter's name so their sons would further their line.

-The man in Nehemiah 7 was now no longer allowed to serve as a priest because he had abandoned his name, which in Jewish tradition for a priest was costly, because your right to function as a priest was determined by your family heritage...

-The Barzillai Factor...when I allow my earthly culture to displace my Kingdom culture, my divine purpose is at risk...my destiny can be derailed, eliciting a response from God, "That's not why I made you!"

-Mark 8:15

-Pastor Chris Ball...the yeast of the Pharisees is religious tradition that is void of devotion to Christ and the yeast of the Herodians is when my culture (especially political) is driven by earthly citizenship instead of Heavenly citizenship.

Miracles Missed

-Matthew 15:21-28 (from woman's perspective)

-The healing of me...how many miracles have I missed in my life because I rejected the person God sent to minister to me? We often reject people who are from a different sub-culture than our own.

-(show concentric circle diagram now with lots of inner circles)

-The healing of we...how many miracles are we missing in our community because we are resisting a "cause?" We resist "causes" from sub cultures that are not our own and in doing so we often resist Heaven, as God often chooses "others" to champion something for Him!

Rest Relinquished

-Matthew 15:21-28 (from disciples perspective)

-Matthew 11:28-30

-Pastor Paul Johansen

-He points out that there is reason Jesus says first "give" and then later says "find." The rest He "gives" is salvation (explain and offer). The rest we "find" is in laboring with Him and for Him.

-Ephesians 2:8-10

-For some of you here tonight your soul is restless because you want the rest that is given but you are putting forth no effort for the rest that is found!

-The culture of the Kingdom of Heaven is one of activity! What are you doing for your King?

Close

-Revelation 22:3-5