

Your True Home
Hebrews 13:11-14; John 3:1-17
May 16, 2010

Once a young man fell over a cliff. By the time he was rescued he had lost so much blood that he was almost dead. His father rushed him to the doctor, but the doctor said, "He will certainly die unless someone can be found who is willing to provide enough blood for a massive transfusion." Now the father's heart overflowed with such love for his child that he offered his own blood, though he knew it would cost him his life. So, by the sacrificial love of the father, the young man was given new life.

We, too, have fallen headlong from the mountain of righteousness and lie broken and wounded by sin, with our life fast ebbing away. But if we turn to Jesus, he freely gives us his spiritual blood so that we might be saved from death and regain life. Indeed, he came to us for this very purpose.

John 3:16-17 assures us, *"For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him."*

You see there was an old way...an old system that was set up so that people could go to the Temple and offer sacrifices for their own sins. The problem with this system was that animals were being used to atone for the sins of human beings. It was futile, and had to be repeated every year. That why God sent His Son to die for you and for me. He became the once for all sacrifice. He was human and divine, so he was the perfect sacrifice.

So also Jesus suffered and died outside the city gates to make his people holy by means of his own blood. So let us go out to him, outside the camp, and bear the disgrace he bore. For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come. (Heb 13:12-14)

In the Wisdom of the Sadhu, a young Sikh turned Christian proclaims the following, "Sometimes people say that they are ready to believe in God only if this or that doubt is removed or satisfied. Can one go to a doctor and ask that the pain of a broken arm be removed before the bone is set? This would be ridiculous because the pain is the result of the break. Once the limb has been set, the pain will pass away by itself. ... We must first restore spiritual union with God; then doubts with regard to the existence of God or the divinity of [Christ] will disappear on their own. Only then will the pain fade. Only then will we experience the wonderful spiritual peace that the world can neither give nor take away.... Whoever sincerely seeks truth with an open heart will find it revealed in [Jesus]."

Friends, you were meant to be in relationship with God. We are not human beings going through a temporary spiritual experience; we are spiritual beings going through a temporary human experience.

This is what Nicodemus did not understand when he came to talk to Jesus.

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you."

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

"What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"

Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' (John 3:1-15)

Nicodemus didn't seem to understand that we are first and foremost spiritual beings.

This passage from John tells us two important things: One, that we cannot be a part of the Kingdom of Heaven unless we leave our old life behind and are born anew into new life. You and I tend to want to cling to the physical world around us, when the truth is that we are most at home when we are enmeshed in the spiritual. Two, that the Holy Spirit enables that transition to become a reality in a person's life. It is not something that you can accomplish on your own. Isn't it amazing that God knows what we need, and then provides what we need to have it happen?!

So where do you find out about how to have new life in Christ? Can you find out about being born again in a civic club like, Rotary or Kiwanis? No. Will you hear about it in the newspaper or CNN? Definitely not! The church is the only place where you will be told the truth of God's deep love for you. Here you will learn about the greatest sacrifice ever made on your behalf, and the greatest victory ever won for you.

You will be brought into the story – a story that is bigger than you, but always intended on having you as a part of it.

Salvation through Jesus Christ promises: eternal life (a changed quality of life here and now, and everlasting life in heaven), a sense of peace and joy that you never experienced before, and forgiveness for your sins.

So, think about your life up to this point. If you have been living it without Christ, how has it been working for you? I'm not talking about money or career or family. I'm talking about the internal qualities of peace, joy, serenity, love, fulfillment, and the knowledge that you are living

every day within the will of God. I'm talking about an assurance of where you will spend eternity.

If you are thinking that maybe your life would be better with Christ, then the next question you need to ask yourself is when do I make the choice to believe in Him and begin this new life.

Some will tell you, "There's time. Jesus hasn't come back for 2000 years. What are the chances that he will come back today? There's always time for you to accept him later." If that's what you are hearing, then hear what the Lord himself says in the book of 2 Peter 3:3-10:

I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. They will say, "What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again?... But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

The time when it is too late when come when you least expect it. My prayer for you is that you would make the decision to believe in Jesus right now. That's all it takes to be saved – believing that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died for your sin, and that He arose again. This earth is not your true home. God wants you in heaven with him. A mansion is prepared for you in heaven...don't let it stand empty for all eternity.

If you would like to accept Christ for the first time today, then just pray this prayer with me:

Dear Lord,

I admit that I am a sinner. I have done many things that don't please you. I have lived my life for myself. I am sorry and I repent. I ask you to forgive me. I believe that you died on the cross for me, to save me. You did what I could not do for myself. I come to you now and ask you to take control of my life, I give it to you. Help me to live every day in a way that pleases you. I love you, Lord, and I thank you that I will spend all eternity with you. Amen.