



## KINGDOM CULTURE

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Midwest South District Supervisor Wendy Nolasco (pictured with her family)

### INTRO:

- Jesus wants his church to see a unique vision of His Kingdom
  - In fact, we are people who are called to have a vision of Jesus and His work that manifests in our lives as Kingdom Culture
  - What does it mean to be citizens of God's Kingdom, a manifestation of Kingdom Culture?
    - It involves God's trust in us.
    - We are entrusted with the truth of the Gospel, to tell God's story.
    - We are also entrusted to live in God's Kingdom as flesh-and-blood portraits for those on outside God's family so they might see what A good, good Father is like.
    - And it involves a calling (see below).
- When Jesus declared that the Kingdom of Heaven was present, He wasn't speaking of a literal earthly realm; but rather it was a declaration of a unique spiritual reality manifested in a chosen people.
- When Peter addresses a persecuted people, he begins with statements of identity grounded in their Kingdom citizenship, their portion in Kingdom Culture, and their "chosen" status.

### MAIN TEXT:

*But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy. Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world. 1 Peter 2: 9-12 NLT*

*For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps. He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. 1 Peter 2: 21-23 NLT*

### KINGDOM CULTURE CAN BE DESCRIBED AS...

#### ...AN ETERNAL CALL TO CHRIST:

Become part of God's Family manifesting his Kingdom

*...you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession... Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people.*

- This is the beginning of living in a Kingdom Culture; the life of Jesus initiates us into God's family.
  - God draws his people to himself as the Holy Spirit discloses the love of God directly to people's hearts
  - Jesus know how to speaks our language as he draws us to himself.
    - Peter was a vocational fisherman; yet Jesus tells him how to do his job. "Throw your nets on the other side..."
    - Peter does what Jesus says, despite his doubts as a professional fisherman
    - A miraculous catch occurs. In obedience, he reaps a miracle.
- Revelation brings repentance and purpose: Peter: "Depart from me..." Jesus: "I will make you a fisher of men."

#### ...A TEMPORARY CALL TO AN ASSIGNMENT:

Practicing eternal faithfulness during every short-term season

*...Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors.*

- After we learn someone's name, often the first question is, "What do you do?"
- Our temporal vocation is not our identity and it has a shelf-life
- There's a distinction between who you are and what you do
- How do we know what our temporary assignments are? We follow Jesus by listening to what the Father says, and do what he says. (John 5) That transcends the temporary and ties it to the eternal.
- Overburdened schedules, and the "noise" of busy lives, drown out the Father's voice.
- We need stillness and faithfulness.
- The Enemy has no answer for faithfulness

### ...A DAILY CALL TO A DIFFERENT STANDARD:

How we make an eternal impact beyond the walls of the church?

*As a result, you can show others the goodness of God... For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering*

- Identity impacts influence
- Whether a CEO, stay-at-home mom, a trades person, or a student, we express our eternal identity within these contexts and spheres of influence.
  - We are the lenses through which others see Jesus. The message of the Gospel is carried in living vessels, his people, who live as expressions of Kingdom Culture.
  - God starts with the "who" before he gets to your "do"
  - God wants obedience more than compliance; overflowing from a loving relationship, where we are secure as a "chosen people"
  - Spiritual influence that has real impact results from the overflow of a loving heart devoted to God
  - We lay down our life and become a bridge. We hold on to God's truth with one hand and we hold on to others who are far from God with the other.
- When you're a bridge, people walk on us, but, we make a choice to live unoffendable.
- Jesus suffered to the point of death for the joy set before him
- We lay down our lives joyfully when we see what Jesus is doing to build his Kingdom.
- People are drawn to the Spirit of God, to us when we bear His Spirit in our person.
- Seeing what God wants us to do for the sake of Jesus takes faith. It takes vision.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How do you see yourself and others shaped by culture?
2. When you hear the phrase "Kingdom Culture" what does it make you think of?
3. How do you see your "eternal call" expressing in your life?
4. What's temporary about your assignment and how do you relate to that, it's temporary quality? Does the idea of a temporary call make you excited, fearful, or something else?
5. How is the standard of a Christian's life different from the broader culture? What makes it so and how do you feel about that? Discouraged? Empowered? Both feelings in tension?
6. Where does the power come from to live differently, as one set apart to a Kingdom Culture?
7. How are "who" and "do" related?
8. How does our eternal call impact the daily expression of our temporary assignments?
9. What would it mean for you to be "unoffendable"? Who comes to mind when you contemplate that possibility and why?
10. Where do you see the need for reconciliation up close and personal?