SERMON NOTES & LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

VIRAL! THE INCREDIBLE, ASTOUNDING, SPECTACULAR GOOD NEWS! Curt Brunk 11.15.09

Why did the Gospel go so much more Viral than anything else that has ever been?

Because it is not just a religious idea or some other sort of ideology

Instead it is something totally new to the world: Mat 9:14-17.

There is another reality, another dimension, in the world, which we do not see: 2 Kgs 6:16-17

Jesus you cannot see it nor enter into it if you are not born again of the Spirit: Jn 3:3-5

This was always God's plan

For thousands of years He let us try our own ways. But no one found God, nor the incredible Life He has for us

His plan was to give us a new heart, a new spirit, and even more to give us His Spirit to live in us! Ezek 36:26-27

Geppetto & Pinocchio

If you do not have His Spirit you are not a Christian (being a Christian is not mental ascent, nor actions, it is being made new and having the Spirit within): Rom 8:9

When we have His Spirit we see this other reality and understand what we previously did not – as Amazing Grace says: "I was blind, and now I see."

This other Kingdom – God's Kingdom – has always been "among" us: Luke 17:20-21

There is in us a new reality, a new nature

Peter calls it an imperishable seed: I Pet 1:23

John calls it His nature in us: 1 Jn 3:9

We can liken it to being:

A Cottonwood Tree – soft wood that is alive, but can be hollowed out

So God puts a new seed/nature is us of a Oak Tree – a hard wood – which grows up in us.

Over time, we look more and more like the new nature/tree.

NEXT WEEK: Viral & Catalyst

Remember: the only way a person can ever become new is if God draws them: Jn 6:44

They cannot come through natural/worldly means: Rom 8:7

So our role is to live in the Incredible, Astounding, Spectacular Good News of a New Life as New Creation

When we get into works, striving, we are simply going back to the way it was, losing the glory of what actually is: Gal 3:1-3

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What was most meaningful to you about the message? Most encouraging? How would you share this with a friend who has not yet come to faith?
2. Read Matthew 9:9 - 17 deliberately and with an eye for the details. What about these events and teaching would have seemed like good news to the onlooker & listeners, encountering Jesus for the first time? Why?
3. Curt spoke passionately about the beauty and strength of "being made new". In daily living for you, what is the difference between being "made new" and working hard at self- improvement? Explain.
4. Digging deeper: Spend a few moments in Gal. 5: 1-5. Why is Paul so impassioned about this subject? What is the substance of this sharp warning? How could we can caught in the mode of working to grow in our faith "in the flesh"? What is the antidote to this undesirable scenario?

TODAY'S CHALLENGE: (Remember to watch for God to move this week and tell us your testimony!)

I will pray for _____ to come to Jesus