



And this gospel of the **kingdom**
will be *preached* in all the **world**.
MATTHEW 24:14

Season of New Beginnings

Pastor Nick Williams

April 20, 2014

Summary

It's a year and season of new beginnings. At Easter we remember what Jesus did for us. He died on the cross and He rose again. When He rose, so did we! 2 Corinthians 5:17 says that we are new creations! Old things have passed away and all things have become new. You can't have a new beginning without great possession. When you go and possess something new, it is the end of something old. When you possess something new, you let go and release the things that were old. When God leads us to greater and bigger things, He requires us to go through a process of increase and change on the inside first before we experience the increase and change on the outside. Your outcome of the game is really what takes place before you play the game. In Genesis 12:1-3, God gives Abram some instructions: Get out of your country, get out of your family, get out from your father's house and go to a land that I'm going to show you. If Abram had stayed where he was, he would still be called Abram; but God called Him Abraham. God changed his name when he got out! Change isn't always easy, but change that God leads is always to increase you. These changes were required in order for Abram to increase and receive his promise! Luke 5:36-39 talks about how a new piece cannot be put onto an old garment or how new wine cannot be put into new wineskins. You can't go into a new season or dimension with an old mindset. Sometimes we like the old. We like to be familiar with certain things. Carnally it makes us comfortable, but we know that God says the new place that He's brought us to is a better place, it's a bigger place and a place with more provision!

Some Things to Keep in Mind in Our New Season:

- 1.) Be open to change.
- 2.) It is not us who lives, but Christ who lives in us.
- 3.) Go with the flow. Be flexible.
- 4.) Be okay with not being in control.
- 5.) We don't know it all.
- 6.) Be teachable.

The only constant in life is change. Let's look at areas in our lives where God is wanting us to change, or to bring us to another level.

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- A. It's a Year and Season of New Beginnings
 - a. At this time of year, Easter, we are remembering that Jesus rose again.
 - i. With Him, so did we!
 - ii. It's a new beginning for us as well!
 - b. 2 Corinthians 5:17 – We are new creations!
 - i. Are we in Christ? Then we are a new creation!

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- ii. Old things have passed away and all things have become new.
 - iii. Our spirit's have been made new. It's up to us to cultivate our hearts and demonstrate that newness of life that He's given us.
- B. Ephesians 2:4 – What He Has Done For Us
- a. We have been made alive together with Christ.
 - i. In this season of new beginnings, we need to remember are no longer dead, we are alive with Christ.
 - b. We have been raised up together with Christ.
 - c. We are seated together with Christ in heavenly places.
 - i. We have dominion, power and authority. It's up to us to walk that out.
- C. New Beginnings and Great Possession are Inter-Related
- a. You can't have a new beginning without a great possession.
 - b. When you go and possess something new, it is the end of something old.
 - c. When you possess something new, you let go and release things that were old.
 - i. (Example: upgrading your computer)
 - d. When God leads us to greater and bigger things, He requires us to go through a process of increase and change on the inside first before we experience the increase and change on the outside.
 - e. A quote: "After the game is before the game."
 - i. Your outcome of the game is really what takes place before you play the game.
- D. Genesis 12:1-3 – The Change that Abram Required
- a. Get out of your country
 - i. In a season of new beginnings there are some countries that we need to get out of.
 - ii. Country speaks of a culture and a way of understanding things.
 - b. Get out of your family
 - i. Family speaks of support system, history, familiar surroundings.
 - ii. Some things are comfortable but they're not beneficial.
 - c. Get out from your father's house.
 - i. Speaks of a source of provision, recognition and security.
 - ii. Get out from an old way of receiving your provision.
 - iii. Get out of the security of being in your father's house brings you.
 - d. Go to a land that I'm going to show you. A new place.
 - i. God says, I will bless you, I will make your name great.
 - e. If Abram had stayed where he was, he would still be called Abram; but God called Him Abraham.
 - i. He did that when he got out! That name means "Father of Many Nations".
 - ii. Change isn't always easy, but change that God leads is always to increase you.
- E. Luke 5:36-39
- a. What are we remembering at Easter?
 - i. We've been crucified with Him, raised up together with Him and seated together with Him. We've been made new.
 - b. God is saying, in order to recognize this change; no one puts a new piece on an old garment.
 - i. You can't go into a new season or dimension with an old mindset.
 - ii. It is your heart that takes you to the new dimension and allows you to walk that out.
 - iii. No one puts new wine into old wineskins. New wine must be put into new wine skins.

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- iv. Vs. 39 – Sometimes we like the old. We like to be familiar with certain things.
 - v. Carnally it makes us comfortable, but we know that God says the new place that He's brought us to is a better place! It's a bigger place, a broader place, a place with more provision.
 - vi. Psalm 13:35 There's giants, but it's a better place. A place to be able to grow.
- F. Some Things to Keep in Mind in Our New Season
- a. Be open to change.
 - i. Sometimes that can be hard; especially if we like our routines.
 - ii. If we do the same things, we get the same results. But if we do different things we get different results.
 - iii. We should always base our actions of what God is leading us to do.
 - b. It is not us who lives, but Christ who lives in us.
 - i. Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:4
 - ii. Old things have passed away. A person who is alive, might say I prefer the old things. A person who's dead says nothing. It doesn't long for the slavery of Egypt.
 - iii. The person who is dead only to be raised up by Christ; it's Christ who lives in me and through me. God's desires become our desires.
 - iv. A new beginning in some ways is a death. It's a death to the old ways of thinking, behaving and believing and in exchange for a new and a higher way of thinking and a higher way of living.
 - v. Quote: Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end.
 - c. Go with the flow. Be flexible.
 - i. Why? Why not?
 - ii. Brittle things break when the pressure's applied. Flexible things that go with the flow are able to grow and able to succeed.
 - d. Be okay with not being in control.
 - e. We don't know it all.
 - i. God wants to increase us. If we say we know it all, we don't want any increase.
 - ii. Some things we've believed in the past, may not actually be true.
 - iii. Some of those old things we need to let go of. They are holding us back from where God wants to take us. We are on a journey.
 - f. Be teachable.
 - i. Proverbs 9:9. Let's receive instruction because where we're going, we don't know it all. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
 - g. The only constant in life is change. We are always changing. What you put in yourself today is what you'll be tomorrow.
 - h. Quote from TS Elliot – Last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice and to make an end is to make a beginning.
 - i. Let's look at areas in our lives where God is wanting us to change or to bring us to another level or to bring us new revelation.

Scripture References:

- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Ephesians 2:4-
- Genesis 12:1-3

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- Luke 5:36-39
- Psalm 13:35
- Galatians 2:20
- Romans 6:4
- Proverbs 9:9