



Journey: Traveling on Business

Journey to Kibbutz Kafar Giladee—one mile south of Lebanon:

- **My State:** I felt very uneasy, out of place, uncertain—an alien in a foreign land.
- **Our Identity:** A sojourner is a Christ-follower who has accepted the reality that he or she is a temporary resident of this earth and time. 1 Peter 1:1 and 2:11.
 - **A stranger:** settled down, however briefly, among native people.
 - **A resident alien:** a non-citizen, transient, stranger.
 - **An exile:** a stranger, a foreigner, alien. Opposite of a citizen.
- **Our Problem:** We so often take our metaphors of personal identity from the American culture instead of from the Book.

Tension: Our culture is pressing and pressing and pressing its metaphors on us but we only live well when we adopt the identities of the Bible.

Idea: I must journey like a business person...in a foreign land and on a critical mission.

- **Journey:** life is a trip through time and space to eternity and new space.
 - Ruth 1:1-5:
 - Genesis 23:4:
 - Hebrews 11:8, 9, 13:
- **Business person:** fisherman, witness, servant.
 - Matthew 4:19:
 - Acts 1:8:
 - Mark 10:42-45:
- **Foreign land:** this is not our home and it should not feel like home.
 - Heb 11:8, 9: Do I feel at home?
 - Eccl 2:1-11: Am I making myself at home?
- **On a critical mission:** disciple-making.
 - Matthew 28:16-20:

For Instance: Mary Slessor.

Application: “Two Critical Business Questions.” (next page)

Two Critical Business Questions

Every Christ-follower, after he or she trusts Christ, must come face to face with two difficult questions and make two intentional decisions:

Question #1: What is my mission on this earth as I journey through? Or, why am I here? Or, why did God leave me on this planet and on this journey? (Remember that your answer must be defensible—there must be evidence that you are being truthful.)

- My mission/purpose options—the partial list—my life mission is to:
 - ...be safe and secure.
 - ...be popular with as many people as possible.
 - ...be famous.
 - ...be passive/aggressive about my anger toward “the man.”
 - ...be funny.
 - ...be in the know about everything among my circle of friends.
 - ...be smart.
 - ...be admired by my peers and my enemies.
 - ...be rich.
 - ...be rich and make it clear that I am rich.
 - ...be in control of everyone and everything I can possibly control that relates to my own life.
 - ...be pretty.
 - ...be unnoticed and invisible in all my settings.
 - ...be fit.
 - ...be stimulated with any possible high.
 - ...be sexually active and fulfilled.
 - ...be happy.
 - ...be absolutely free from pain, struggle, and hardships.
 - ...be “one up” on others.
 - ...be able to experience fun things and exotic places.
 - ...be sure that I and my family have all the toys and fun we can.
 - ...be as far from my beginnings and family of origin as possible.
 - ...be a fully functioning follower of Jesus Christ.
 - ...be _____.

- My decision, honestly, is that my life mission is to: _____

Question #2: Will I pursue my stated mission tenaciously? It is one thing to “check the right box” out of this list. It is something altogether different to really live into that decision. Signed: _____ Date: _____

Walking Papers

Practical helps for walking with Christ this week.

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Please take some time each day this week for "spiritual recalibration" by thinking through the following ideas and questions related to having "eternity in our hearts:"

- **Today:** What would it be like to be stationed in India for two years on a business assignment? Think about the emotions, the language, the sights, the smells, the culture, the distance from family, the uneasiness, the confusion, the sounds, the congestion, and the uncertainty. Think about your feelings about home during those two years?
- **Monday:** What are 20 metaphors that the American culture presses us to adopt?
- **Tuesday:** What are the central lessons of sojourning that struck you from the message?
- **Wednesday:** Read Hebrews 11 and list 7 principles of sojourning from the lives of the sojourners listed there.
- **Thursday:** Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11. What do you think about the idea that Solomon was trying, consciously or unconsciously, to recreate the Garden of Eden? Do you see ways that you are attempting this? If so, how is it working?
- **Friday:** In regard to your core identities do you see yourself as a fisherman, witness, and servant?
- **Saturday:** With brutal honesty examine your heart, schedule, checkbook, and thought life in order to answer the question, "What is my mission really?"
- **Bonus Question at no additional charge:** Read Ruth 1:1-5 and reflect on what it would be like for you to move to Mexico due to an economic disaster in the USA.