

Theme: The miracles of the Virgin Birth and the Incarnation of Christ bear eternal fruit in the miracle of the new birth. By it the dead are made alive in Christ and we are made fit for the kingdom of Heaven - to serve, praise, and enjoy him forever.

Introduction: There are privileges that belong to natural-born citizens alone.

I. The Problem?

What is born of flesh – is flesh! (1 Corinthians 15:50)

A. Spiritual pride – Leads to our attempts to gain entry. Look at...

1. Nicodemus
 - A "representative" man – moral, educated, powerful
 - With a "right" to the Kingdom of God
2. Playing the part
 - Take the name
 - Adopt the habits
 - Learn/use the language
3. I'll do it my way!
 - Through personal effort/reform
4. Who Cares?
 - Having no interest in that Kingdom

B. Spiritual blindness

1. Can't see Jesus
 - Just teacher, prophet
2. Cannot see the Kingdom of God
 - Disability prevents it
 - Blind to the church - His Kingdom on earth
 - Blind to the Kingdom in Heaven
3. Living in darkness
 - Born in the kingdom of darkness – not of light (Jeremiah 5:21)

C. Spiritually dead

1. Heaven is of no interest
 - They couldn't enjoy that place
 - If opened to them they wouldn't want it
2. Helpless to reach it
 - Ephesians 2:1; 2:5; John 6:44; Ezekiel 36:26
3. Hopeless (Ephesians 2:12)
 - What is born of the flesh is flesh
 - It is perishing (1 Corinthians 15:50; Isaiah 40:6)

II. The Solution

A. To be born again

1. Impossible for you to do
 - You can't do it
 - You can't re-enter the womb
2. God must do it
 - a. God is the source of life – and of new life!
NOTE: Not talking about the birth method – but its source!
 - b. God has the power – to give life!
 - He can make the dead live

- c. It is a "miracle" – a supernatural act of God
 - Like Mary, we are "overshadowed" by the Holy Spirit
 - The "dead" are made alive! (Colossians 2:13; Ephesians 2:4)
 - d. Salvation is the work of God
- B. By water and spirit
- 1. Water?
 - a. Natural birth?
 - b. Baptism?
 - c. Water = Spirit?
 - d. Water = "the Word" (1 Peter 1:23; John 15:3; James 1:18)
 - 2. Spirit?
 - Faith is planted
 - The Holy Spirit brings it to life
 - We are born again – as a "natural born" citizen of that new Kingdom

III. A New Creation

- A. In Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)
 - New birth, new life – tied to the miracle of the incarnation
 - Born again, not of the seed of Adam – but as the seed of the Second Adam (1 Peter 1:3)
- B. With the Breath (Spirit) of God
 - Not readily explained
 - But can't be denied (1 Corinthians 2:10-12)
- C. As citizens of Heaven (Philippians 3:20)
 - "Super-Natural" born citizens!
 - With all the rights and privileges of citizenship there
 - With desires suited to that kingdom

Welcome to His Kingdom!