

London City Mission Service Notes 13th September 2020

Leader: Mark Reid

Speaker: Nick Mott (LCM)

Good morning and welcome to our Sunday Service for 13th September. It's a big day for us, the first Sunday back in the church, as well as a special London City Mission service with speaker Nick Mott from Edmonton in North London, who's going to tell us something about his work amongst Muslims and Turkish speaking people. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, London City Mission is not yet doing personal visits of missionaries to supporting churches, so they have asked Nick to bring us God's word on video.

Let's declare the invitation that God brings to each and every man and woman. I'll say the words in normal text and we all say the words in italics.

In the midst of a world where people hunger and thirst,

Come worship a God who feeds the hungry.

In the midst of a world where people are abused and oppressed,

Come worship a God who calls for compassion and justice.

In the midst of a world filled with wars and rumour of war,

Come worship a God who brings peace through the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the midst of a world where love is not freely shown and forgiveness is hard to find,

Come worship a God whose grace and love know no end.

Which is shown through the Lord Jesus Christ in whom we put our trust.

In His name we come. Amen.

Song: Come all you vagabonds

Prayer

Thank you Father that we have been able to restart services in the church building this morning. As we return to familiar surroundings, we pray that you will help us use the opportunity to value what we have missed, reflect on what new things we may have learned whilst away, and re-affirm what we are here to do – to let others know of the hope that we have in the Lord Jesus Christ. Bless those who aren't able to return yet and those worshipping online today.

We thank you also for the opportunity to remember, celebrate and pray for the work of London City Mission. Thank you for 185 years of ministry in London, through so much social change, remaining faithful to the gospel and adapting to the needs of those who need Jesus today. We thank you for Nick and his ministry to Muslims and the Turkish speaking community in London, please inspire us and encourage us as we hear what he has to say this morning.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Song: There is a hope

I was interested to hear that Nick is a missionary in North East London. This is a part of London that Rhiannon and I are familiar with, having lived in Tottenham, Enfield and Walthamstow over a period of 21 years. It's an area of mixed population, many originating from Turkey, Northern Cyprus and Bulgaria, as well as a significant Muslim community from other lands. As part of his ministry, Nick runs a Turkish language Bible study in Silver Street Community Church, which I remember as Tanner's End Free Church. I used to preach there regularly back in the 80s and 90s and I praise God that it is now an outward looking church with a heart for its neighbours, including its Muslims neighbours. Praise God!

So as we welcome Nick, and let's be encouraged by what he has to say about LCM his work with the mission.

Notes from Nick's introduction to himself and the Mission

Nick has been with the mission for some 4 years and he and his wife were previously in Turkey working alongside a local church.

LCM was founded by a Scotsman, David Naismith, who 185 years ago was led to work amongst those living in poverty in London, to help them and give them the opportunity to hear about Jesus. Others were set apart to do the same. LCM continues to show the love of Christ to the poor and the least reached of London. LCM works on the toughest estates, with gangs of youth, prison work, the marginalised and homeless, working with the immigrant community – Muslims and people from other backgrounds. LCM works with churches and comes alongside them to equip and encourage them, particularly to minister to the least reached of London.

Until lockdown Nick worked with Silver street Community Church, an area with a large number of Turkish speakers. The Motts are fluent in Turkish and are helping the church to reach out to the community. They have a drop-in café with English classes and also a Bible study. A number of individuals have professed faith. Those attending church have translation provided for them. Lockdown has had a massive influence on the work, with the activities at church closing and having to keep in touch online.

Nick is putting an apologetics web app together to help equip local churches on how to answer difficult questions that Muslims ask, and to have an understanding of Islam so they can ask challenging questions of Muslim friends in the context of loving relationships.

Pray for the Turkish speakers at Silver Street CC, and for opportunities to re-connect with the Turkish-speaking community. Pray for the LCM team in eastern Enfield and Haringey, that churches would want to connect with their Muslim neighbours and for opportunities to equip churches. Most of all, pray that Muslims will leave Islam and follow Christ.

Please do support LCM financially – there are details in the MRBC Weekly Sheet for 13th September.



Let's pray together that the Lord may illuminate our hearts and minds as I read the Bible and Nick brings us the message this morning.

***Father, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read
and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today.
In Jesus' name
Amen.***

Reading: Genesis 3

Notes from Nick's sermon

Is the Christian God the same as the Allah of Islam? Even a superficial reading of the Bible and the Quran will show that they are not the same. Islam makes two critical errors amongst others, one historical and the other theological.

Historical error – they say Jesus didn't die – a doppelganger took his place.
Theological error – they say Jesus isn't God's Son.

They come up with a false gospel based on works because they deny the only way to be saved; the cross and that Jesus is Lord. That's why LCM prioritise Muslims with the gospel. If you are talking with a Muslim, where would you open your Bible to show that he is both Saviour and Lord? There are many e.g. John 1, Colossians 1, Philippians 1, Revelation 1. The first three chapters of Genesis is not somewhere we'd normally go to talk about Jesus. But these chapters talk about Jesus being Creator, Judge and Saviour.

Creator – Genesis 1:1-1-2. God is a plural word yet the verb is singular. One God, three persons. Muslims claim the Trinity was made up 300 years after Jesus, but we see the Trinity foreshadowed in the earliest verses of the Bible. The God of the Bible is not alone – a perfect relationship between Father, Son and Spirit before creation. In chapter 2:4 we also see God creating from up close – in verse 7 physically breathes life into Adam. Who is it creating up close in the Bible in the Garden? It must be the Son – the Word who comes physically in the garden and creates. He then creates the woman from the man's rib. The language is physical – the Lord uses his hands. In John 1, we see Genesis being preached in relation to the Word.

Judge. Adam and Eve had a personal relationship with God – walked with him etc. God defined their moral boundaries – not eating of the tree. But they disobeyed by eating the fruit. God had to step in as judge. 3:8 - The same God who formed them now comes after them. He expels them from the garden. I believe this is the pre-incarnate Word. It was a

judgement of sadness as he removed them from the garden. Jesus is judge and one day he will return as Lord and Judge, and every knee will bow as loved children or as his enemies. The Jesus of the Quran is not the Jesus of the Bible – he isn't judge. Jesus is Creator and Judge.

Saviour. Adam and Eve felt same because that they were naked – experienced shame and fear. Genesis 3:7, they broke the rule, they tried to fix it with fig leaves. It was works and it wasn't good enough. They were entrapped by satan's kingdom by eating the fruit, and their works were not good enough to rescue them. They were trapped by sin. Satan needs to be defeated and we need to be rescued. The rescuer need to be stronger than satan, without sin to do that for us.

Secondly, they found themselves in debt to sin. Fig leaves covered the issue, it didn't pay the debt to God. There are two amazing verses in chapter 3 that shows how God would rescue them. Verse 15 – someone born of the woman was going to defeat satan. The one who will come would suffer, but who would in turn defeat satan. There were none born of Eve, but there was only one who was sinless, who although he suffered, also defeated death and rose again. The second verse is 3:21. God clothed the man and his wife. It is a picture of hope. Was the killing of the animal (a lamb?) to clothe them a picture of his death – the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. A picture of what he will one day do on the cross. Only the Lord himself could pay the price on behalf of sinners. The blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin. This is the Jesus in whom we have put our hope.

He was there in the garden as Creator and Judge. He died on the cross and rose again and one day he will return as judge. But he is the Saviour. Is this the Jesus you love and are trusting in? The Jesus of Islam cannot save. Only this Jesus can. Jesus is Creator, Judge and Saviour.

Prayer

Let's take a few moments to pray for London City Mission, its work amongst Turkish speaking Muslim people and for Nick and his ministry. So let's pray.

Father, we give you thanks for Your love and compassion for all people, which was revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank You for the reminder we've had this morning that Jesus was Himself, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Thank You that He loves Muslim men and women who don't yet know who He really is.

Thank You Lord for those you have raised up and burdened to reach out to these people to show them that Jesus is so much greater than they've ever learned about or imagined. We thank you for the missionaries like Nick who share the real Jesus with them. May Your Spirit use them to speak Your word and may Your word speak into their hearts.

We pray for Nick, particularly at this present time, that even with the constraints regarding meeting and social distancing, that he still may be able to maintain his contacts with those who want to know more about Jesus, those who have shown an interest in studying your word and those who have found faith in Jesus with all the challenges that brings. Please encourage Him.

Thank you for the way in which you are using Nick and other LCM people to equip churches to reach out to their Muslim neighbours. Help those churches to love them as you do and desire them to find the real truth of Jesus being Saviour and Lord. Thank you for the way in which Turkish people and other Muslims are finding Jesus as Saviour in London. Bring in the harvest. Bring in the harvest Lord we pray.

In Jesus' name.
Amen.

Please do pray for LCM this week. There are prayer points on the Weekly Sheet and I've put a link to LCM's website. Do have a look and there is an opportunity there to give financially towards their work as well as be added to their mailing list.

Let's close with a song that's a prayer. Meditate on the words and pray them as we listen to Give me a heart of compassion.

Song: Give me a heart of compassion

Thank you for joining us today. Let's close with this musical blessing from Graham Kendrick, followed by some notices. See you next week when we have a completely live service with Alex Jacob from the Church's Ministry to the Jews. So goodbye and stay safe.

Blessing: Peace to you.



For Reflection and Discussion

1. Nick asked us what scriptures do we know that show Jesus is both Lord and Saviour? Nick suggested a few references but there are many more. Have an explore of your Bible and see what you can find.
2. Read Genesis 3. Adam and Eve had the privilege of actually walking with God in the garden. What do you think made them turn around and disobey Him? Having sinned, what was their excuse? When we don't walk close to Jesus, what's ours?
3. Why is it important to have a clear idea of Jesus being Creator, Judge and Saviour? How may it affect the urgency of how we speak of Jesus to others?

Take time to pray for one another and also for Nick and the work of London City Mission.

