

IN THE WORLD



John 17:9-19

LESSON 2
March 13, 2022

Connect timeless truths with today's news.

NOT FREE TO WORSHIP IN IRELAND

During his six-year enslavement in Ireland, the young Briton who became known as St. Patrick was not free to worship Jesus. He served pagan masters and could not openly pray to the Lord. Though he was the son and grandson of Christian ministers in England, the young man named Maewyn Succat had not shown much interest in the things of Christ before the Irish raiders had appeared on the horizon. But over his years of hard labor in Ireland, he came to call upon Jesus with his whole heart. When he escaped and returned to England, he was finally free to worship the Lord who had saved him. It wouldn't be long before that Lord would call young Patrick back to bring the light of life to his former captors.

FREE TO WORSHIP IN ISRAEL

After seventy years in captivity, the Jewish people were allowed to leave Babylon and return to Israel. The conqueror, King Cyrus of Persia, was perhaps keen to get all the people (and gods) of Nebuchadnezzar's conquests to look favorably upon him and his new empire. So he was generous with freedom, supplies, and edicts to help the departing peoples go home and reinvigorate their religions. The letter he wrote to protect the returning Jewish exiles ensured they would be able to worship freely in Jerusalem and throughout Israel.

1. What would it take for you, like Patrick, to be willing to offer salvation to the people who have mistreated you?
2. How can the superstitions of non-Christians sometimes aid the cause of Christ?
3. What would you do if you were suddenly not free to worship the Lord?

Additional Resources

These videos and materials are for your personal use. If you show videos in class, be sure to have the necessary rights to do so.

Music Video, Traditional: [“Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus” by Simon Khoralskiy](#)

Music Video, Multicultural: [“Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus” by Simon Khoralskiy](#)

Music Video, Contemporary: [“Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus” by Simon Khoralskiy](#)

[Guzik's Commentary on Ezra 6](#)

[Pulpit Commentary on Ezra 6](#)

[Gill's Exposition of Ezra 6](#)