

Christian Ambassador Training

The Gospel Is – Week 6

Group Discussion-- Commanding the Impossible?

“Would/Did Jesus command people to do what they could not possibly do?”

Review (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

I. His Message (Mark 1:14-15)

- A. “Repent and believe” is the consistent call of Jesus and his followers.
- B. Believe what? ...

We began with what the gospel is *not*.

II. The Gospel is Not¹

- A. The Gospel is not that salvation is easy. (Law Lite/Easy Believism)
- B. The Gospel is not that Jesus can make your life better or you a better you.
 - Count the cost (Matt 10:38-39; 2 Tim 3:12; Jam.1:2; 2 Cor 5:17)
- C. The Gospel is not that we are **OK**. (Eph 2:1-5; Col 2:13-14; John 3:3; 1 Cor 15)
- D. The Gospel is not simply that God is **love** (1 John 4:8; Exo 34:6-7).
- E. The Gospel is not simply that Jesus wants to be our **friend** or **example**.

III. The Gospel Is²

- A. What is the Gospel? --*An important in-house example of scaling the language barrier*
 1. “_____?” **Zoom Lens**
 2. “_____?” **Wide-angle Lens**

- B. “Wide-angle” gospel a.k.a “The gospel of the Kingdom”

Sometimes Scripture uses the term gospel to refer to “the entire package of blessings that Christ secures for his people.” [p. 95]

1. **Matthew 4:23 (Matthew 3:1, Matthew 4:15-17, Mark 1:14-15)**

➤ Note how *this* good news (gospel) also calls for a response: **Repent and believe!**

2. ^{ESV} **Luke 4:18-19a (Isa. 61:1-2a)**

¹ Much of this list from the wonderful brothers at 9Marks ministries-- under Mark 3--The Gospel.

² Much of this material is from chapter 4 of Kevin DeYoung and Greg Gilbert’s book *What is the Mission of the Church?* Crossway Books, 2011. All [page references] are to this book.

- C. “Zoom-angle” gospel a.k.a “The gospel of the Cross”
1. **Acts 10:36,43**
 ➤ *Peace with God--for those who are by nature His enemies (Romans 5:10)*
 2. **Romans 1:16-17**
 3. **1 Corinthians 15:1-5**
 4. **1 Corinthians 1:17-18**

Breakout 1 -- The Message of Reconciliation

Hopefully you are becoming very familiar with one of our primary texts. **2 Corinthians 5:17-21** speaks of a message of reconciliation that has been entrusted to us. I equated that message to the Gospel.

1. Would you say it is more closely aligned with the gospel of the cross (zoom) or gospel of the Kingdom (wide-angle)? Why?
2. So some of these other “reconciliation” (with respect to man’s broken relationship with God) help? (**Romans 5:10-11, Ephesians 2:16, Colossians 1:20**)

D. “Pulling It All Together” [p. 106]

1. There is only one Gospel, not two.
2. The gospel of the Kingdom necessarily includes the gospel of the cross.

Recall--the gospel of the Kingdom is preached with a commanded response. (Matt 4:7; Mar 1:15)

That is the crucial thing to keep in mind; indeed it is the difference between preaching the gospel and preaching something that is not the gospel at all. To proclaim the inauguration of the kingdom and all the other blessings of God without telling people how the maybecome partakers of those blessings is to preach a nongospel. Indeed it is to preach an *antigospel--bad news--*because you’re simple explaining wonderful things that your sinful hearers will never have the opportunity to be a part of. [p.108]

3. The gospel of the cross is the fountainhead of the gospel of the kingdom.
 4. Zooming in and Out -- **Acts 13:26-40** and **Col 1:15-23**
- E. Putting It *All* Together -- DeYoung and Gilbert integrate “the Gospel” definitions. Lets back up and look at how God chooses to save people.

Group Discussion 2 – Putting It All Together

In a previous lesson we discussed the call/message of our Sovereign and characterized it as “repent and believe.” We’ve spent this week and last week discussing what we are calling them to believe – the Gospel. It is essential that we understand the nature of this call.

1. How is a sinner reconciled to God? (bottom line: substitution – 2 Cor 5:21)
2. What is the sinner’s part? (obey--repent and believe) (**Acts 17:30-31**)
3. How does the sinner do it? (**Colossians 2:13-14; Ephesians 2:1-5; Mark 10:23; John 6:44**)
4. Is God commanding the **impossible** of sinners?!

- **Repentance is _____ by God (2 Timothy 2:24; Acts 11:18)**
- **Faith is _____ by God “come to me” = believing trust/faith**

John 6: _____ by the Father and _____ to the Son (**John 6:37,44**)

<1670> ἔλκω *helko*

Meaning: to drag

^{ESV} **John 12:32** And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will **draw** all people to myself.” (cf. Jn 10:16;11:52)

^{ESV} **John 18:10** ... Peter, having a sword, **drew** it and struck the high priest's servant ...

^{ESV} **John 21:6** He said to them, "Cast the net ... they cast it, ... they were not able to **haul** it in...

^{ESV} **John 21:11** So Simon Peter went aboard and **hauled** the net ashore...

^{ESV} **Acts 16:19** ...,they seized Paul and Silas and **dragged** them into the marketplace before the rulers.

^{ESV} **Acts 21:30** They seized Paul and **dragged** him out of the temple, and at once the gates were shut.

^{ESV} **James 2:6** Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who **drag** you into court?

- As ambassadors, we must understand the nature of the call to repent and believe the gospel. It is impossible with man. Every true believer is a walking miracle, a spiritual resurrection.

Implications:

- Knowing that salvation is impossible with man helps us to trust God to His Word rather than our techniques.
- We are not free _____ the responsibility to proclaim the gospel; we are free _____ proclaim it, knowing that it is God who grants repentance and draws people to himself and we are his chosen instruments “God making his appeal through us” for that proclamation.

Breakout 2 - The Foolishness of the Gospel -- "Jesus Christ died on the cross for sinners"

1. Do you understand how absurd/nonsensical that sounds? (**1 Corinthians 1:18-24**)

2. Biblical evangelism-- *Law to the proud, grace to the broken.*

Do you understand why "Jesus loves you so much he died for you" might be met with responses like these?

- Why would he do a silly thing like that? / Who asked him to?
- So what? (What did it accomplish?)
- This God of yours loves me (*how could he not?*) and this is the best he could do for me? What's behind door #2? (*How about three wishes?*)

3. *The Riddle of the Old Testament -- How can both be true?* (**Exodus 34:6-7**)
 - How can God be both just and gracious?

If Time Permits...

In our membership interviews, we now ask people to tell us the one minute version of the gospel. If people have claimed to have repented and believed... it is a good idea to find out what they have believed! On my website (objectivegospel.org) I am collecting good examples of teachers giving the gospel in a minute or two. I want you to listen closely for some key themes, especially as related to the material we have covered so far in the course.

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| ○ Holiness | ○ Substitution (2 Corinthians 5:21) |
| ○ Justice | ○ Repentance |
| ○ Sin | ○ Belief/Faith |
| ○ Love | |