



Exploring God's Love through the Bible:

The Message of Jesus Pt 1 - His Gospel

Nov 13, 2016

Text: Mark 1:14-15

FRIENDS, LET US BE REMINDED: WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

As we saw last week, Paul stated it as thus:

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures... (1 Cor 15:1-4 KJV)

I've written a definition as well for clarity sake:

Jesus Christ, the Son of God and God the Son, came to this earth through the virgin Mary, revealed the truths of God, lived the perfect life in our place, died on the cross to pay the penalty of sin that we might be brought into relationship with God. He rose again on the third day, and gives eternal life to those He has called, who believe in Him by His grace and through faith. Those who reject Him will spend eternity apart from Him in Hell. At a future date, He will return to complete the restoration of God's creation.

HIS GOSPEL INCLUDES REPENTANCE:

*Mar 1:15 ... "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent** and believe in the gospel."*

- The word for repent here is *metanoō*. It means to think differently or afterwards, that is, reconsider (morally to feel compunction).
- MacDonald writes on this verse:

Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the good news of the kingdom of God. His specific message was that:

1. **The time was fulfilled.** According to the prophetic time-table, a date had been fixed for the public appearing of the King. It had now arrived.
 2. **The kingdom of God was at hand;** the King was present and was making a bona fide offer of the kingdom to the nation of Israel. **The kingdom was at hand** in the sense that the King had appeared on the scene.
 3. Men were called on to **repent and believe in the gospel.** In order to be eligible to enter the kingdom, they had to do an about-face regarding sin, and believe the good news concerning the Lord Jesus.
- To repent is to see one's sin as **exceedingly** sinful (Rom 7:13) and, by God's grace, turn from it and to God in Christ.

- We live in a church age where many have forgotten Jesus' own statements concerning the loving message of the Gospel. Jesus Himself preached that men must repent!

Mat 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Luk 5:31 And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick."

Luk 5:32 I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Luk 15:7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

Luk 24:45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

Luk 24:46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,

Luk 24:47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Luk 13:1 There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

Luk 13:2 And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way?"

Luk 13:3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

Luk 13:4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem?"

Luk 13:5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

- The point is clear: Jesus' Gospel includes a call to fervent repentance, where men acknowledge their **sin** before our holy God and **turn**. Paul taught as much before Agrippa:

Act 26:19 Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

Act 26:20 but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.

- This, I believe is a key to revival because God desires brokenness and is honored by contriteness.

Psa 51:16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

Psa 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Isa 66:2 All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

Friends, I agree with the contemporary Psalmist, Fred Hammond, when he sang:

*Lord my heart chases after Thee
How shall I draw You close to me
A broken spirit and a contrite heart
To this You will draw nigh and I'll draw nigh*

*I will draw nigh to You and You will draw nigh unto me
I'll sing a serenade while tears of joy wash my face
You are my reward nothing else compares to You Lord
My God and my salvation
I'll draw nigh to You, I'll draw nigh to You*

*Craving righteousness, I'm thirsty for Your presence
With all I have I'll worship the beauty of Your holiness
A broken spirit and a contrite heart
To this You will draw nigh, and I'll draw nigh*

- Saints, I believe this is one of the areas we miscommunicate the Gospel the most. So anxious are we to get to the saving part, we rarely take the time to ensure that sin is fully known; rarely do we wait long enough to see broken, repentant hearts within the hearer.
- It sounds harsh, but a heart that truly breaks before God is one that God Himself has **touch**ed. That IS love!

HIS GOSPEL INCLUDES BELIEVING:

Mar 1:15"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and **believe** in the gospel."

- *The word here for believe is pisteuō. It means to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), that is, credit; by implication to entrust (especially one's spiritual well being to Christ).*

Mar 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Joh 3:18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Joh 6:27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal."

Joh 6:28 Then they said to him, «What must we do, to be doing the works of God?

Joh 6:29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."

Joh 8:23 He said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

Joh 8:24 I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins."

Joh 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

Joh 11:26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Joh 11:27 She said to him, Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

Joh 11:42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.”

Joh 11:43 When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.”

Joh 20:27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.”

Joh 20:28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

Joh 20:29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

EXHORTATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

1. Doctrinally, we believe that both repentance and faith are given by God. Man, left to his own sinful inclinations, has neither a **mind** to repent nor the **ability** to believe. The Bible teaches that every intention of the thoughts of man’s heart is only evil continually. (Gen 6:5)
2. We believe salvation is truly of the Lord! (Jonah 2:9; Heb 7:25) What does this reality do to your sense of awe and reverence toward our Savior, who saves to the uttermost?
3. When you consider “where God brought you from,” what feelings stir within you?
4. When was the last time you told your “salvation testimony” to someone? What is a true testimony, if not a “testament” to the goodness and grace of God in Christ towards you? Who needs to hear that?
5. Finally, how might the totality of your life change because of the Gospel of Jesus?
 - How might we shift our giving to a Gospel-centered motivation?
 - How about our relationships and parenting?
 - How about the educating and discipling of our children, our entertainment, and our practical, day to day holiness?

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If we remember that Christ died and that His holiness would be applied to our account, the fruit of that realization should be love and truth. We should be less worldly and more compassionate! We should hold more vigorously to the Lord’s commands, not traffic in world-endorsed compromise!

May the Holy Spirit, fill us all again that we would reflect the Glory of Christ in all our doings, calling men and women everywhere to repent and believe the Gospel.

Amen.