

5. Kings – and the Gospel of the Kingdom

Personal Story

The “Good News” I used to share was a traditional message similar to the 4 spiritual laws. That is:

1. We are all sinners
(for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God Rom 3:23)
2. We not only have sinned but we have sinful tendencies and sinful hearts
(Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. 1 Tim 1:15 KJV)
3. We need to invite Jesus into our lives and surrender our personal ambition (e.g. bring our sinful nature to “death”)
I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. Gal 2:20
4. We can look forward to, and have confidence in going to heaven
5. God has a wonderful plan for our life

The Lemon Juice Gospel

What people hear from that message is that they are basically bad and that God hates sin and probably doesn't like them very much either. What we communicated is that people are evil, they need to get saved and forsake all their selfish aspirations. Some of the verses we used were:

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. Matt 16:24-25

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. Gal 2:20

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Rom 6:3-4

God Loves the World!

God isn't telling "most" unsaved people they are evil and have sinful aspirations. He's telling them he loves them, created them in his image, and their heart's desire overlaps with His plan for their life. Some have sin issues, but many more have good desires and they are basically good people. The sin emphasis in our message is true but it's not the biggest problem most people face in meeting Jesus. The background theology is in Harold's book "[Precious in His Sight](#)." I recommend it.

Kingdom Incentive - The Kingdom starts now – abundant life

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; **take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you** since the creation of the world. Matt 25:34

"Do not fear, little flock, for **it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom**. Luke 12:32 NKJV

Therefore, since **we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken**, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe Heb 12:28

The Gospel of the Kingdom (Included Life)

After Jesus' death there was a huge emphasis on the Kingdom or the "Gospel of the Kingdom." That was the primary message of Good news... not just the death and burial (that we identify with in salvation and baptism) but the resurrection life where we live out our Christian life.

After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and **spoke about the kingdom of God.**
Acts 1:3

But when they believed Philip as he **preached the good news of the kingdom** of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Acts 8:12-13

"We must go through many hardships to **enter the kingdom of God,**" Acts 14:22

Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the **kingdom of God.** Acts 19:8

They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. From morning till evening he explained and **declared to them the kingdom of God** and tried to convince them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. Acts 28:23

Boldly and without hindrance **he preached the kingdom of God** and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 28:31

What's the message of the Kingdom?

1. You have an inheritance!

receive a hundred times as much in this present age Mark 10:29-30

2. You have power!

He will do even greater things than these... You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. John 14:12-14

For the kingdom of God is *not a matter of talk but of power.* 1 Cor 4:20

3. You have God's Heart!

he will give you the desires of your heart. Ps 37:4, Heb 8:10

4. We're winners!

Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. Matt 10:7-8

5. We Bless Others! Gen 12:2-3

But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant... Deut 8:17-18

Will bad things happen?

Of course, but it's not your commitment, self discipline or strength of character that will see you through them. It's the "joy set before you" - not just heaven, but all of your inheritance in the Kingdom in this life. Yes you have a cross to bear - but it's pretty light compared to every good thing God has put in front of you.

- Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who **for the joy set before him endured the cross**, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Heb 12:2-3
- **Consider it pure joy**, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. James 1:2-3
- The apostles left the Sanhedrin, **rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name**. 42 Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ. Acts 5:41-42

And the good news is...

Instead of just warning people how hard it is to be a Christian and how bad they are, tell them how good Jesus is and how blessed they will be by their inheritance in the Kingdom. That's when your presentation of the Gospel will really be balanced.

"Sin" isn't the biggest problem

People are lost with respect to finding the adventure, passion, romance, joy, and meaning that God designed their hearts to experience. Sin is just a 3rd rate substitute for the eternal pleasures of knowing Jesus that begin when we get saved.

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Ps 16:11

Purpose - "Why am I here?"

What God is doing in the Kingdom is liberating, exciting, romantic... an adventure filled with the tempest of warfare, the thrill of heroism, the camaraderie of friends, and the generosity of abundance.

See graphics

Will the real Gospel please stand up

The message to me (servant or friend)