

# A DEEPER LOOK...

## THE GOSPEL

### WHAT IS IT?

Christianity generally is practiced in a couple of different ways. Both of these fool us into a lifeless, burdened style of religion that is simply one big chore.

- 1) God doesn't really like me or approve of me. I must do good things to get close to Him
- 2) I need God to make my life good and easy. If I say certain things and do certain things he will give me good things.

**The gospel describes something far more fulfilling and purposeful:**

### **John 3:16**

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

### **1 Corinthians 15:1-10**

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

- **Just reading this doesn't change anything**
- **Simply understanding this doesn't save you or make you a disciple**
- **This must become the anthem with which we relate to everyone and everything!**
- **How will you begin incorporating this into your life?**
- **How can this change the way you make decisions?**

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

- **Truth #1:** I can't earn my acceptance from God by doing good things
- **Truth #2:** I must start from the belief that he loves me more than I can imagine
- **Truth #3:** The gospel guides me in all of my relationships (*See John 13:34-35*)

### **1 Corinthians 13:1-3**

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, **but do not have love**, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.



**MOTIVE MATTERS**

### **1 Corinthians 15:9-11**

For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, **I worked harder than all of them —yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.** Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.



**GOSPEL BASED DISCIPLESHIP IS NOT PASSIVE**

#### **Matthew 4:19** (*Illustration of the gospel*)

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.

- Undeserved and inspiring call: Jesus to them: "Follow Me"
  - ✓ I believe in you
  - ✓ I see more than you do
  - ✓ This is good news!!!!
  - ✓ What we deserve: Leave me...got to hell!!!
- Transformed (more than just behavior change)
  - ✓ I will make you
    - Again, we deserved judgment not transformation
    - Second chance
    - Jesus dies for this!!!!
    - Good news!!!
- Join ME on my mission (Undeserved)
  - ✓ Men need to be caught by Jesus
  - ✓ Walk with me
  - ✓ You will be living proclamations of my gospel

## WHAT DO I DO?

### SATURATE MY MIND WITH THE GOSPEL

#### **Romans 12:1-2**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is —his good, pleasing and perfect will.

#### **Psalm 1**

Blessed is the one  
who does not walk in step with the wicked  
or stand in the way that sinners take  
or sit in the company of mockers,  
but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and who meditates on his law day and night.  
That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither—  
whatever they do prospers.

2 Corinthians 5- Must be my worldview

→ **In short:** Repent

- Repent = change the way you think
  - About people
  - About sexuality
  - About materialism
  - About relationships & community
  - About money
- In most cases above we simply view them as consumers
  - What can I get?
  - How fast?
  - How much?
  - How can I get more to make me feel good?

#### **JESUS CAME AS A GIVER!!...Followers of His should embody this lifestyle**

Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” –Matthew 20:28

## THE GOSPEL MUST BE MY WORLDVIEW

### **2 Corinthians 5:14-19**

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

- Can you find the gospel expressed in the above passage?

## **THE END RESULT OF THE GOSPEL?**

**I DON'T WANT ANYTHING GOD, EXCEPT MORE OF YOU  
OVERFLOWING TO OTHERS!!!**

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

-Paul, Philippians 3:10-11

# A DEEPER LOOK ...

## HUMILITY

### #1 SELF-AWARENESS

#### **Romans 12:3-5**

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: **Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment**, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

#### **Revelation 3:17-18**

You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' **But you do not realize** that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

- We must see our spiritual need for Jesus. What is yours?
- We must put comparison to other people to death.
- One of the great enemies of discipleship is Independence.
  - What does dependence on God look like?

Characteristics of self-awareness:

- I understand how I come across to others
- Spoken beliefs are in line with decisions you make and how you live
- Knows their strengths
- Knows their weaknesses
- Knows their limits

## **#2 SURRENDER**

### **Luke 7:36-50**

When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, teacher," he said.

"Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."

Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

- Summarize this story in your own words.
- What is the lesson Jesus is teaching? What will it take to embody this quality?
- What do you need to change to be like this woman?
- Have you reached the end of your rope? Rock Bottom?

Additional Study:

Luke 15:11-24

### **#3 HUMILITY**

#### **Luke 18:9-14**

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

How many other passages can you find describing humility and its importance?

Characteristics of humility:

- Willingness to be transparent about sin and weakness.
- Willingness to ask for help.
- Willingness to listen before speaking
- Having an appreciation of others strengths
- Celebrate others victories
- A conviction to consider others first

On a scale of 1-10 how would you rate yourself in each area?

Ask a friend to rate you. How do your scores compare?

### **JUST WORDS????**

*The bible is not a magic book of incantations that we read and recite it is a book that must be **LIVED OUT, EMBODIED, MODELED AND OBEYED***

**“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”** –Luke 6:46-49

# A DEEPER LOOK ...

## FAITH

### READ HEBREWS 11

- Summarize it out loud in your own words
- Go back and re-read: Is there anything you left out?
- What are the main thoughts you are having in regards to Godly faith?
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### Luke 7:1-10

When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." So Jesus went with them.

He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

- How did the centurion explain his faith in Jesus?

**FAITH IS A VERY RELIGIOUS WORD...  
A BETTER WAY TO THINK ABOUT THIS WORD IS TRUST**

**CLEARLY NO ONE WHO RELIES ON THE LAW IS JUSTIFIED BEFORE GOD, BECAUSE  
THE RIGHTEOUS WILL LIVE BY FAITH. GALATIANS 3:11**



**FAITH IS NOT JUST A WORD BUT A LENS THROUGH WHICH EVERY DECISION IS MADE**

- Will I trust God's plan of purity or trust my view?
- Will I trust God to lead me to a faithful spouse or will I take it into my own hands?
- Will I trust God with my money or will I indulge in my own greed?
- Will I trust God with my schooling and seek him first?
- Will I trust God in my job?
- Will I trust God in my anxiety?
- Will I trust God by being transparent and honest?
- Will I trust God even when I don't understand his ways?
- Will I trust God when life doesn't go my way?
- Will I trust God so I can serve others before myself?
- Will I trust God to step out of my comfort zone?

**ACT ON IT!!**

*What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can his faith save him?*

*If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you don't give them what the body needs, what good is it? In the same way faith, if it doesn't have works, is dead by itself -James 2:15-17*

# UNDERSTANDING THE PROGRESSION

## THE GOSPEL

When the gospel becomes the lens  
I view everything from I am able to be...

## HUMBLE, SELF-AWARE & SURRENDERED

Humility, self-awareness and a surrendered attitude  
is the rich soil in which allows the growth of:

## FAITH

Faith in God brings freedom and peace  
in life and relationships

**IF THE GOSPEL IS TRUE...**

**THEN MY BEST RESPONSE IS TO TRUST HIM IN EVERYTHING**