

Title: Weekender – What is the gospel?

INTRODUCTION

My Acts 29 interview and then subsequent report. I didn't understand "the gospel." They didn't say I wasn't saved, but that I didn't and couldn't articulate the gospel.

For a year I read and was mentored:

- Talked once a week
- Read a bunch – Prodigal God, How People Change, Counterfeit Gods

Here's how we live this out:

We don't ever move past the Gospel.

Where we begin is where we stay. True Christianity always springs from growing Gospel-centeredness in our lives. We are to grow in grace each day, to more fully work the reality of what God has done for us – the Gospel – into the everyday parts of our lives. Christianity is fundamentally about learning how to live as a new person in Christ, where your heart is set on Jesus Christ and your life is the overflow of your joy in God. As one author has said, it's about "doing everyday things with Gospel intentionality."

The gospel is a message about how we have been rescued from peril. –Tim Keller

Gospel – The announcement that King Jesus has come to strike down all evil through His life, death, and resurrection. Jesus has come to rescue His stolen kingdom – and now, because King Jesus has come and made a way, the Kingdom of God and King Jesus are available to everyone who confesses Jesus is Lord and believes in their heart that God raised Jesus from the dead.

What the gospel isn't.

The gospel is not the results of the gospel (heaven, redemption, fruit of the Spirit, good works, loving your neighbor, etc.)

The gospel is not the good things God gives to us.

What is the gospel?

- *Mark 1:14-15*
 - *Good news, not good advice*
 - *Kingdom, Trinity, Relationship - relationship is at the core of the gospel - restored relationship with Jesus, restored relationships with one another - both of these were lost in the fall and since the fall we have been self-protecting our guilt and shame by hiding and covering*
 - *All human problems are a result of our separation from God and one another and the gospel is the message about what Jesus has done to repair all relationships: God, self, and others*
- *1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 57*
 - *Of first importance*
 - *Not only that he died, but that he was raised from the dead*
 - *The Victory of Jesus*
- *Romans 10:9*
 - *The pathway is clear - call on Jesus as Lord*
 - *God doesn't make it difficult to come into his Trinitarian relationship - It does require death to self.*
 - *Bonhoeffer - When God calls a man he bids him to come and die*

The gospel answers four foundational questions everyone is asking: 1) What is a good life? 2) Who is a good person?, 3) How do I become a good person?, 4) What does a successful life look like?

- Every person is answering and has answers to these four questions
- Calcasieu Carl and Beurgard Beau answers
 - Enough money to do what I want, A quiet home, and maybe time with my partners to go and have everything I want
 - The one who takes responsibility and works to get what he needs and take care of who needs to take care of -
 - I do everything necessary to give my kids everything that I didn't have and do my best to be a good husband - when I can't, I just numb or ignore the issues
 - In the boat, on the river, somewhere outside with my family and everyone having a good time

What are we to do now that we believe the gospel?

We are to announce the gospel to those who “lost.”

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10

What does it mean to be lost? It means that I'm not where I am supposed to be, and don't know how to get where I want to be.

We listen well to make an impact. No one cares about an announcement unless they believe it will impact their life.

Listen with the lenses - longings, desires, wrong strategies, dignity, glory, and depravity

Ask a lot of questions - Jesus asked over 300 questions

Know, - this requires a heart of love towards another person. We don't want to know one another, we want to greet one another and move on

Discover, - what are their answers to the four questions - at least one of them

Explore, - why do they live the way they live and do the things they do

Impact - what Gospel reality are they missing - how are they living separated from God, self, and others

Brad Dunlap - I want you to apologize

You can't do any of this without the Holy Spirit

Psalms 139:23-24

John 4 - The Woman at the Well

Discussion Suggestions:

How did this message impact your understanding and appreciation of the gospel?

How can you work to become a better listener to strengthen your ability to announce the gospel to the lost?