

King Jesus Gospel _ Ep. 1

The Gospels are The Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was,² “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”³ The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said,

*“He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming!
Clear the road for him!’ ”*

⁴John’s clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁵People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. ⁶And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. “You brood of snakes!” he exclaimed. “Who warned you to flee the coming wrath?” ⁸Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. ⁹Don’t just say to each other, ‘We’re safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.’ That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. ¹⁰Even now the ax of God’s judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹“I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.”

Like John, we have an assignment to prepare the way for others to meet Jesus.

Mark 1:14-15(NLT)

*¹⁴Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God’s Good News. ¹⁵“**The time promised by God has come at last!**” he announced. **“The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!”***

Four American Pop Gospels:

1. Reformed Gospel
2. Prosperity Gospel
3. Evangelical Gospel
4. Social Gospel

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PRACTICING THE WAY

As disciples of Jesus, we know our allegiance to Him as King is expressed in our daily practice. We are not pursuing perfection, but want to practice our faith each day. These practices will point you toward spiritual formation as an apprentice (disciple) to Jesus.

Read through the Gospels, slowly.

Meditate on each phrase of this Gospel summary:

The Gospel is the good news that God our Father, the Creator, out of His great love for us, has come to rescue us from sin, Satan, death and hell, and to renew all things, in and through the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf, to establish His kingdom, through His people who participate in loyal allegiance in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is for God's great glory, and our profound joy.

Talk it Over (with friends, a spouse, or connect group)

- Read Matthew 3:1-12. Sunday's message we continued to define the Gospel. Did anything speak to you or stir a question within you?
- John the Baptist prepared the way for the first coming of Jesus. We are to prepare the way for others to receive Jesus today. How can you do that through relationships you currently have? Who is someone you could invite to Easter service?
- Read Mark 1:14-15. What are the phrases that you notice? What is Jesus trying to tell us about the Gospel?
- Which of the four "American-Pop Gospels" were you most connected within?

