

WEEK 36:

PROCLAIMING & PORTRAYING THE GOSPEL

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

Various passages in Luke and Colossians 1:13-23

RELATED SCRIPTURES:

Genesis 3, Isaiah 58:5-10, Matthew 4:23-25 and 5:14-16, Luke 4:18, 9:1-2 and 6 and 11, 10:9, Acts 10:36-38, Romans 8:18-25

“Christ Jesus did not simply pick up where the first Adam left off; he undid Adam’s transgression by his sacrificial death and successfully fulfilled Adam’s vocation by his obedient life. If there is no debt to God, but only thanksgiving, where do our good works go? There is only one direction: outward to our neighbor. We look up in faith toward God and out to our neighbor in loving service.”

- Michael Horton

PERSONAL STUDY:

Read Genesis 3. In humanity’s fall, four fundamental relationships were broken: 1) relationship with God, 2) relationship with others, 3) relationship with self and 4) relationship with creation. Where have you seen these broken relationships in your life? How is Jesus repairing, bringing wholeness and healing to these broken relationships in your life?

Read Colossians 1:13-23. Paul describes the gospel in personal redemption/forgiveness terms in v. 13-15 and v. 21-23, but zooms out to a cosmic view of the gospel in v. 16-20. How do these two aspects of the gospel work together? Do you tend to think one is more important than the other and if so, why?

Read Colossians 1:20 and Revelation 21:1-5. What does Paul mean when he says that through Jesus, God is reconciling all things? What roles do we play in this reconciliation as Christians?

What resources and opportunities is Jesus giving you to help repair the four broken relationships of Genesis 3 in other people’s lives?

SERMON NOTES:



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

Read Matthew 4:23-24, Luke 9:1-2, 6 and 11. These verses give us an overarching view of the beginning of Jesus’ ministry. What are the two primary components of His ministry? What does this reveal to us about Jesus’ character?



Jesus consistently brought healing for people’s physical and spiritual needs. He cared for their physical needs by healing their bodies, and he cared for people’s spiritual needs by preaching to them the Gospel of the Kingdom. Do you have a tendency to care about people’s spiritual needs while under valuing their spiritual needs, or vice-versa? Why?

-What harm is done when we care about people’s spiritual needs without caring about their physical needs?



-What harm is done when we care about people’s physical needs without caring about their spiritual needs?

Read Revelation 21:1-5. The gospel is both the astounding good news of the forgiveness of sins, as well as the astounding good news of God’s plan to reverse every terrible effect that sin has had on His people and His creation. Revelation 21 describes what it will be like when Christ comes back and makes everything right again. How does the Gospel motivate us to bring healing to people’s physical needs and spiritual needs?



Pray for God to give your LifeGroup opportunities to combine the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Kingdom with the displaying of the Gospel of the Kingdom by meeting physical needs.