



Explicit Gospel - Response & Restoration.

ADAM LONG

Week Four of our series: *Explicit Gospel* - Week of May 19th, 2019

MAIN IDEAS // The explicit gospel is **the good news that Jesus came and lived a perfect life, died a sacrificial death and rose in victorious resurrection**. The bottom line is the gospel is good news that demands a **response** - it will harden the heart or awaken the heart.. And our response directly relates to where we stand in God's plan for the **restoration** of all things.

SERMON TEXTS // **Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23 & Revelation 21:1-4** English Standard Version

[1] Gospel on the Ground: preaches the truth of man's **response**. (Matthew 13)

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear."

The different responses to the seed are contingent upon the receptivity of the soil. We can view these four soils as four responses to the gospel in man's heart:

- (A) A Resistant Response.** (v. 4) - The heart is hardened by the Gospel and never accepts.
- (B) A Superficial Response.** (v.5-6) - When there is no root or dept of soil there is no fruit.
- (C) A Distracted Response** (v.7) - The pressure and things of the world choke any growth.
- (D) A Receptive Response.** (v.8) - Good seed, in Good Soil, Produces Good Fruit.

KEY: We must never overlook the truth that this story is about a Good Sower - not the good soil.

[2] Gospel in the Air: preaches the truth of God's **restoration**. (Revelation 21)

¹"Then I saw a **new** heaven and a **new** earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, **new** Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

God is going to make *all things new* - He is going to **restore** all things: this is what that means for each of us:

- I. God is going to make *all of creation new*.** (v.1)
- II. God is going to make us *spiritually new*.** (v.2)
- III. God is going to make *new our relationship with Himself*.** (v.3)
- VI. God is going to make us *physically and bodily new*.** (v.4)



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GOSPEL COMMUNITIES

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Question 1

*What was something you wrote down or a truth that resonated with you from listening to the sermon, looking at the overview, or if you have read the book: *Explicit Gospel*?*

Question 2

Read aloud the *Parable of the Sower* found in **Matthew 13:1-9**. On Sunday Adam alluded to the thought that often times we can have the tendency to read this Parable as the "Story of the Soils." **What is the danger in reading this story as if it were written about the soils? What implications do we face if we consider the soil more than the sower?** Spend some time as a community talking openly about the parable and the implications found in applying it correctly to our day-to-day lives.

Question 3

Parables are earthly stories with heavenly meanings. Jesus would have used this picture to present a truth to His listeners that they would have understood. Each character represents a someone or something: The sower represents God, the seed represents His Word (and specifically the Gospel), and the soil represents the heart of man. **Theologically, if this story is about the Sower – what does that say about God? What does that say about the Gospel / Bible? And what does that say about our hearts towards the Gospel?** These are not the theological "milk" teachings of Scripture; this ventures into the 'meat' and may be something you have not considered fully – and that is perfectly fine. This is a safe place to discuss God's sovereignty over all things and man's place within.

Question 4

God created all things with a purpose in mind. Within that purpose He was able to see sin enter the picture through His infinite foreknowledge. This is why the Gospel, the good news that Jesus came and lived a perfect life, died a sacrificial death and rose in victorious resurrection, was not an afterthought – but it was the plan from the start. **How do you see our response to the Gospel correlate to God's restoration of all things in Revelation 21? How should this effect the way you live? The way you interact with your neighbors? And the way you live the Gospel?** Be overly practical in thinking about how these truths impact you, our gospel community, and church.