

EQUIPPED TO COUNSEL 201  
MODULE 4: THE GOSPEL  
LESSON 15 & 16: The Gospel Lived

### Recap & The Main Point

- Basic outline of the gospel: GOD, SIN, CHRIST, FAITH, ETERNAL LIFE
- Gospel implications: placed in Christ, relationship to God, sin, creation, and our selves.
- The gospel lived: the gospel when believed and applied, lives look, sound, and act unique.
  - Unique MOTIVATION, POWER, & GRACE (GROUND)
  - Unique TRANSFORMATION, ENVIRONMENT, PERSON

#### 1. The Motivation that compels us - Why?

- Everything we think & do has a motivation
- Common answers
- 2 kinds of Christian motivation: Love of God (wind behind), For His Glory (joy set before draws us)
- The gospel distinction – Word of God, fear of the Lord, peace & blessing, rewards
  - **BECAUSE HE LOVES ME...NOT...SO THAT HE WILL LOVE ME (2 Cor 5:14-16, Eph 5:1-2, 1 John 3:1-2)**
  - **TO HIS GLORY...NOT...TO MY GLORY (1 Cor 6:12-20, 10:31)**
- Evidence of gospel-rooted motivation -

#### 2. The Power that strengthens us – How?

- Common answers
- The gospel distinction – p155
  - **THE GOSPEL...NOT...HUMAN WISDOM (Rom 1:16, 1 Cor 1:18-25)**
  - **THE HOLY SPIRIT...NOT...HUMAN POWER (Matt 14:28-32, Phil 2:12-13)**
- Evidence of gospel-rooted power

#### 3. The Ground we stand on – By what means?

- Common answers
- The gospel distinction – p157
  - **GRACE...NOT...LAW (Rom 5:1-2, Gal 5:1-4)**
  - **THEREFORE, FAITH...NOT...WORKS (Rom 5:1-2, Gal 5:5-6)**
- Evidence of gospel-rooted grounding

#### 4. The Transformation that transforms everything else – Where?

- Common answers
- The gospel distinction – p165
  - **INNER PERSON...NOT...OUTER PERSON AND CIRCUMSTANCES (Prov 4:23, 2 Cor 4:16-18)**
  - **INNER DEVOTION...NOT...OUTER PERFORMANCE (Psalm 50:7-15)**
- Evidence of gospel-rooted transformation
- Evidence we don't

#### 5. The Environment in which transformation happens – Where does God locate our context for change?

- Common answers
- The gospel distinction – p167
  - **IN REALITY...NOT...DETACHED FROM REAL LIFE AND PEOPLE (Matt 14:1-27)**
  - **IN THE BODY OF CHRIST...NOT...IN ISOLATED, ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE (Eph 4:14-16)**
- Evidence we walk in this truth

#### 6. The Person we fix upon – Who? Should be #1 but good as a climax

- Common answers

- The gospel distinction – p168
  - **JESUS CHRIST...NOT...SELF (2 Cor 3:18, 1 John 3:2-3, Heb 12:1-3)**
- Col 2:8 another good reminder – not a system, a person
- Evidence we walk in this truth
  
- **The Story of Xu (“sh oo”)**
  - **Part 1 – Intro p 145-146**
  - Born in southern China, 25 yrs old, unexpected unwanted 2<sup>nd</sup> child (older brother wanted)
  - Serious doubts of her father’s love, family frustrations, burdens, & blames placed on her
  - Professing Christian family devoted to Christian duties
  - Xu’s childhood – striving to please her parents, outperform brother in all things, earn love & respect
  - Believed in Jesus age 13 – relieved, happy, accepted, beloved, hopeful
  - **Part 2 – p159-160**
  - Hard to apply gospel truths (forgiveness, adoption) to her daily life
  - Old attitude (fretful, pressured, frustrated quest for perfection & approval) resurfaced and impacted her relationship w/ God
  - Public/Private life different – Public – energetic, respectful, moral. Private – angry, jealous, gossip
  - Sought attention of boys in chat rooms, video games, sensual images
  - Guilt & shame – tried to make up for it w/ exercise and bible study
  - Age 17 went to university in Beijing – sexual immorality, stealing money, gossip regular habits
  - Wanted to please God and people – could not
  - Spiritually and relationally exhausted, tired of her own games
  - Wants to live honestly and be truly known, doesn’t know how to begin
  - **Part 3 – p170**
  - Holy Spirit continued to change her. She started meeting 2 girls for prayer & bible study
  - Started to learn more about God’s love and how He wants to relate to His children
  - Eph 5:1-2 – not just “be imitators of God”, also “as beloved children”, “walk in love just as Christ also loved you and gave himself up for us”
  - Studied and worshipped Jesus. Prayed to be more like him.
  - Realized God wanted her heart, praise, and thanksgiving, not her merits
  - Convicted of her self righteousness, comforted by God’s grace and affection towards her
  - Freed to love and enjoy God, bound to serve a holy God.
  - Scripture food for her soul, God less of a scolding dictator to avoid or impress,
  - A Redeemer for her to love, enjoy, and delight
  
- **Discussion**
  - If Xu shared her story with you and has asked for your input, what questions would you ask her?
  - What parts of **Motivation, Power, Ground, Transformation, Environment, and Person** would you talk to her about? (and why?) Author’s notes p160,161 & p171
  - How would you encourage her and give hope?
  - What specific scripture would you share?
  - What homework or resources would you recommend?
  - Pleasing others and avoiding God’s judgement can frequently lead to behaviors that are desirable, how do we recognize and guard against doing the right things for the wrong reasons?

**Referenced verses (not comprehensive)**

**[2 Corinthians 5:14-16 NASB95]** (14) For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; (15) and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. (16) Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know [Him in this way] no longer.

**[Ephesians 5:1-2 NASB95]** (1) Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; (2) and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

**[1 John 3:1-2 NASB95]** (1) See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and [such] we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. (2) Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

**[1 Corinthians 6:12-20 NASB95]** (12) All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything. (13) Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body. (14) Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power. (15) Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! (16) Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body [with her?]. For He says, "THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH." (17) But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit [with Him.]. (18) Flee immorality. Every [other] sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. (19) Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? (20) For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

**[1 Corinthians 10:31 NASB95]** (31) Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

**[Romans 1:16 NASB95]** (16) For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

**[1 Corinthians 1:18-25 NASB95]** (18) For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (19) For it is written, "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE." (20) Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? (21) For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not [come to] know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. (22) For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; (23) but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, (24) but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (25) Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

**[Matthew 14:28-32 NASB95]** (28) Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." (29) And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. (30) But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" (31) Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" (32) When they got into the boat, the wind stopped.

**[Philippians 2:12-13 NASB95]** (12) So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; (13) for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for [His] good pleasure.

**[Romans 5:1-2 NASB95]** (1) Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (2) through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

**[Galatians 5:1-6 NASB95]** (1) It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. (2) Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. (3) And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. (4) You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. (5) For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. (6) For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

**[Proverbs 4:23 NASB95]** (23) Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it [flow] the springs of life.

**[2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NASB95]** (16) Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. (17) For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, (18) while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

[Psalm 50:7-15 NASB95] (7) "Hear, O My people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you; I am God, your God. (8) "I do not reprove you for your sacrifices, And your burnt offerings are continually before Me. (9) "I shall take no young bull out of your house Nor male goats out of your folds. (10) "For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills. (11) "I know every bird of the mountains, And everything that moves in the field is Mine. (12) "If I were hungry I would not tell you, For the world is Mine, and all it contains. (13) "Shall I eat the flesh of bulls Or drink the blood of male goats? (14) "Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving And pay your vows to the Most High; (15) Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me."

[Matthew 14:1-27 NASB95] (1) At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the news about Jesus, (2) and said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him." (3) For when Herod had John arrested, he bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. (4) For John had been saying to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." (5) Although Herod wanted to put him to death, he feared the crowd, because they regarded John as a prophet. (6) But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before [them] and pleased Herod, (7) so [much] that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. (8) Having been prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." (9) Although he was grieved, the king commanded [it] to be given because of his oaths, and because of his dinner guests. (10) He sent and had John beheaded in the prison. (11) And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. (12) His disciples came and took away the body and buried it; and they went and reported to Jesus. (13) Now when Jesus heard [about John,] He withdrew from there in a boat to a secluded place by Himself; and when the people heard [of this,] they followed Him on foot from the cities. (14) When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick. (15) When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This place is desolate and the hour is already late; so send the crowds away, that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." (16) But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away; you give them [something] to eat!" (17) They said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." (18) And He said, "Bring them here to Me." (19) Ordering the people to sit down on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed [the food,] and breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples [gave them] to the crowds, (20) and they all ate and were satisfied. They picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve full baskets. (21) There were about five thousand men who ate, besides women and children. (22) Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. (23) After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. (24) But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. (25) And in the fourth watch of the night He

came to them, walking on the sea. (26) When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. (27) But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

**[Ephesians 4:14-16 NASB95]** (14) As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; (15) but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all [aspects] into Him who is the head, [even] Christ, (16) from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

[2 Corinthians 3:18 NASB95] (18) But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

[1 John 3:3 NASB95] (3) And everyone who has this hope [fixed] on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

**[Hebrews 12:1-3 NASB95]** (1) Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (2) fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (3) For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."