

Define Champion—Spread the Gospel

We have been breaking down our definition of champion for the last several weeks to try and better discern how God defines this word. Who remembers our definition?

Definition—A champion imitates Jesus, loves others, stands for truth, and spreads the Gospel.

Remember, our goal for this year is to build on that definition, so that we can all live as a champion. We want to be champions in the way God sees it. First, we learned that a champion imitates Jesus, then we learned that a champion loves, others, last week we learned that a champion stands for truth. This week we're going to look at the last part of our definition, which in many ways incorporates the three other parts into it. This week we're going to learn that a champion spreads the Gospel.

What is the Gospel?

So, this morning I something really cool happened. After See You at the Pole, Alex and I decided to go get some coffee from Starbucks. I don't know what your favorite drink from Starbucks is, but there is no drink better than the Peppermint Mocha. You won't change my mind on it either. Unfortunately for the last two months every Starbucks I've been to has been out of their peppermint syrup they use to make the drink, so I haven't been able to get my favorite drink for a while. I've had to settle for my second favorite drink the White Chocolate Mocha. But, today, when Alex and I went to Starbucks, I was informed that they had peppermint syrup. I don't know if I could describe my reaction, so I'll let Alex do it. ... ***Let Alex describe it....*** My excitement caused Alex to forget his order. For me, this was good news! Well, this is what the word Gospel literally means. It means good news!

Show Bible project video

What do we do when we hear good news? We want to share it. When Larkin and I got engaged we went out to outback steakhouse after I proposed. The first thing she did was shove the ring in the face of the hostess and say I just got engaged. She was excited and had Good news. A similar thing happened when we found out we were pregnant with Charis. Typically, you wait until after the first 12 weeks of a pregnancy to share with others that you're expecting. It was about 3 or 4 weeks after we found out we were expecting that I told Alex. I just couldn't wait to tell someone the good news. **What is some good news that you have gotten that you wanted to tell others about? Did you tell others?**

Good news is typically not simply something we keep to ourselves. Typically, we want to do what Larkin did, and we share it with others, even people we may not know. The video even pointed this out. A king would have a herald that would announce his coming or his coronation. In a lot of cases this was good news that needed to be spread.

As we look at specifically what the Gospel is. It is good news. But what is that news? The news is about Jesus. Jesus is our king. A king that was promised to come and would redeem the

world. Jesus early in His ministry acknowledged that He was that coming king. (***Read Luke 3:16-20***).

In this passage Jesus has returned to the town He grew up in, read a prophecy about the coming king, and said I am that promised King. Jesus is spreading the Gospel, the good news that the king, the redeemer had come.

His people would reject Him, because they had a misunderstanding of how that king, the messiah would come and what He would do. They believed that messiah would redeem them from their enemies, such as Rome. In reality, as we study both Old Testament prophecy about messiah, and the stories about Jesus in the New Testament, we see that messiah was to come and do what? (***If they don't answer explain what He came to do***)

Jesus came to live a perfect life and to die to pay the price for our sins. This is what the good news about the king was. He was to redeem us of our sins, and to restore the relationship with God the Father. The basic of the Gospel is that God wanted a relationship with all people in His creation. Because of sin it wasn't possible without payment. Jesus, our king, the one for whom the Gospel talks about, came and did that for us. That is the Gospel, the good news in a nutshell.

Why does a champion spread the Gospel?

Now, that we know what the Gospel is, why does a champion spread it? I'm going to share three reasons with you and then I'll elaborate on them. The three reasons are: we want to, we love Jesus, and We are commanded to. Let's break those down a little bit.

First, we want to spread the Gospel. We mentioned that the Gospel is good news right? And what did we say we typically want to do with good news? We want to spread it right? So, if we really believe the good news that Jesus came and died for our sins and is our redeeming king, we should want to spread the word about it. (***Read Mark 7:31-36***). In this passage Jesus heals a man and gives him the ability to hear and speak. But, He commands Him to tell no one. But, did the man listen? No, it says in verse 36 That the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed it. They went and told everyone right? And who wouldn't want to tell someone the good news.

Also, let's read a story in Acts. (***Read Acts 9:20-21***). In this story, Paul aka Saul, had just gotten saved and baptized. It says immediately he went and began to preach the word. He was so excited that he did not wait for someone to tell him how or why we spread the Gospel, he was just so excited about what God had done for him through Jesus that he had to tell everyone he saw. Think for a moment, do you feel that excited about what Jesus has done for you? Have you ever felt that excited?

The second reason a champion spreads the Gospel is that they love Jesus. Let's read John 2:15-19. In this passage Jesus and Peter are talking over breakfast. This section is essentially Jesus confronting Peter about denying Him three times during His trial. So, Jesus asks Peter three times do you love me? Each time Peter says you know I love you, and Jesus responds by telling Peter to feed His sheep/lambs. What Jesus is saying is, if you really love me, you will tell the world about what I've done for you and through you. You will spread the Gospel. As we read scripture we see that this is exactly what Peter did, he spread the word all over and was considered one of if not the main leader of the early church. As we apply this passage to our lives

we should have such a deep relationship with Jesus that our love for Him begins to overflow into us telling others about Him. **(Maybe use falling in love example)**

The final reason a champion shares the Gospel is they were commanded to. As we look at sports a good athlete will follow the instructions of their coach. Right now, it's early in the football season. A good football coach will watch game film of their opponent and come up with a game plan that pits the strengths of his team against the weaknesses of their opponent. Yes, sometimes a coach will need to make some changes to the game plan in the middle of the game as challenges arise, but a good team will know and follow its coaches game plan. More often than not if that team follows and executes the game plan the coach gave them well, they will win; if not, the game will not go well.

As Christians, Jesus is our coach. He has given us a game plan to follow. What is that game plan? Let's read Matthew 28:18-20. **(Read passage)** Jesus commands us to go into all the world and make disciples. To make disciples we have to spread the Gospel. This means we have to tell others the good news about Him and what He has done for us. Obviously, the disciples that were there to hear Jesus tell them that in person have done that, if they didn't we wouldn't be here. But, that command isn't just for the ones that were there. It's for us as well, those of us who have read and studied this in the Bible. We have this command to go and spread the word. What will you do with that command?

Invitation

Discuss being saved for the first time///for those that are saved challenge them to find their one and share the Gospel with them. Make sure to mention that they don't have to have all the answers and that they can bring them to youth group and us.