

Key Takeaways and Discussion Questions



Key Takeaways

1. **The Gospel is Good News** - It's not just advice; it's the cure for our sin disease
2. **The Gospel is for Everyone** - It saves everyone who believes, not everyone who behaves
3. **The Gospel Has Power** - It transforms lives when we don't water it down

Discussion Questions

Part 1: Understanding the Gospel as Good News

1. **Read Romans 1:16-17 together.** Why do you think Paul felt the need to emphasize that he was "not ashamed" of the gospel?
2. The sermon mentioned that Romans would have heard "gospel" as a political announcement about a new king. How does understanding Jesus as King change how we view the gospel message?
3. Have you ever been tempted to present the gospel as "good advice" rather than "good news"? What's the difference, and why does it matter?

Part 2: The Gospel is for Everyone

4. Paul says the gospel "saves everyone who believes" not "everyone who behaves." How does this distinction challenge religious thinking? How have you seen this play out in your own life or in others?
5. The sermon highlighted that Rome was very inclusive of all beliefs EXCEPT when Christians claimed Jesus was the only

way. How is our current culture similar to or different from first-century Rome?

6. **Personal Reflection:** Have you ever felt that your past behavior disqualified you from God's grace? How does the truth that the gospel is for "everyone who believes" speak to that?

Part 3: The Gospel Has Power

7. The sermon shared powerful stories of transformation from the Hope Center (Matt and Will). Share a story of how you've witnessed the power of the gospel change someone's life—or your own life.
8. What does it mean to "water down" the gospel? Can you think of examples of how Christians might do this today? What are we afraid of when we water it down?
9. **Read the list of ways we tame the gospel:**

- Talking about God but not Jesus
- Preaching self-help but not surrender
- Talking about salvation but not sin
- Being more concerned about offending than saving
- Leaving out uncomfortable truths
- Making it sound like a raw deal rather than good news

Which of these resonates most with you? Why?

Practical Application

Personal Challenge: Be a Herald This Week

The sermon challenged us to be "heralds" of the gospel. Choose at least ONE of these actions to practice this week:

- **[] Say grace before a meal in public** (at work, a restaurant, etc.)

- [] **Ask to pray for a coworker or neighbor** going through a tough time
- [] **Invite someone to church** (and offer to pick them up or sit with them)
- [] **Have someone who isn't a Christian over for dinner**
- [] **Share your testimony** with someone about how Jesus has changed your life

Group Accountability: Share which action you're committing to and why. Exchange contact information to check in with each other during the week.

Reflection Exercise

At the end of the sermon, people stood if Jesus had saved them from:

- Addiction
- A broken marriage
- A wayward child
- Depression or anxiety
- A life with no purpose
- Religion (legalism)
- Shame, guilt, anger, or hopelessness

Take 2-3 minutes of silence for each person to reflect: Which of these describes your story? How has the gospel demonstrated its power in your life?

Then share: Go around the group and have each person share one way Jesus has demonstrated His saving power in their life. Celebrate these testimonies together!

Closing Discussion

1. What's one thing from this sermon that challenged you most?

2. What's one thing you're taking away that you want to remember this week?
3. How can we as a group be more unashamed of the gospel in our daily lives?

Prayer Time

Pray together:

- Thank God for the power of the gospel and what He's done in each person's life
- Ask for boldness to be unashamed heralds of the good news this week
- Pray for the specific people each group member plans to reach out to
- Lift up the Hope Center and other ministries reaching those who need to hear the gospel
- Pray for anyone in the group struggling with shame or feeling disqualified from God's grace