

This is the Good News!

Tell people about welcome lunch invites on Easter Sunday

Tell people about invite cards for Easter in Lobby

Tell people about Easter in the park

Recently a church that I learn from had their 300 employees submit the five things they thought they needed to do every week in order to be able to fulfill the purpose of their job. When turned in for the first draft, almost every employee had something on the list that was not a part of their expected job. What happened? There was a lack of clarity in the organization. And that lack of clarity led to a lack of capability and competence throughout the organization.

Today I want to bring clarity to what the message of Christianity is, so that we can be capable and competent in sharing it.

There may be no better place to look than Luke 10. Scholars believe that the reason Jesus chose 70 disciples is because Jews considered there to be 70 Gentile Nations. It is interpreted that Jesus was choosing here the message He wanted multiplied throughout the entire Gentile world. And the message is.

[Luke 10:9](#)

[Say "The Kingdom of God has come near to you."](#)

When we read the kingdom of God has come near to you it can feel how I felt yesterday coaching Tee ball. One of my players came to me and said "Can I go tell my mom I want another tru?" I said another truck? No. Another "Tra" Another track? No. Another "Try" Another Try? Ya. Biblical language can seem muffled and hard to distinguish.

But lets start at the Kingdom of God. This one is super simple.

["The Kingdom of God is where what God wants done is done." Dallas Willard](#)

We get a image of this in the Garden of Eden. The Garden of Eden was a place where humanity could

[Enjoy His presence\(know Him\),](#)

[Experience the blessing of truth\(obey Him\).](#)

[Engage in His purpose\(do what they were made for\).](#)

Why was this possible?

[Because they were fully inside the rule and reign of God as the king of their life.](#)

Now our message is

"The kingdom of God has come near."

Why is that the kingdom of God has come near?

Humanity resisted God's rule and reign. They were led by another presence to choose another way, deceived into believing a lie that God was holding out on them, and given over to a life of chaos and torment. Much like the Lion King when Simba decides to go over to the dark side. What happens? He goes from inside his father's rule and reign to outside of his father's rule and reign. And where his father is not ruling and reigning there is darkness and chaos and confusion.

God in His mercy did not want us experiencing an eternity of torment and chaos and confusion so God removed us from Eden with a plan to re-establish His kingdom in our lives. He began re-establishing it through a promise to a man named Abram. He did this by creating a nation called Israel. This nation did not have a palace for their king, but rather a temple. Because He was the king over them. However, they resisted His rule and reign and decided they wanted a human king, so God handed them over to their rebellion and gave them a king named Saul. Prophets began to prophesy about how a king was one day coming who would finally make a way back to God, re-establish a God-shaped reality, and defeat death. Isaiah was the one who most frequently prophesied about a future good news. Isaiah assured humanity that one day an anointed king was coming to end the exile of God's people and to bring His presence back to Jerusalem and to open up God's kingdom to all nations. But every king came and none of them were good enough. David got closest and even he ended miserably. And at the end of the Old Testament the possibility of God's kingdom being re-established feels distant, feels far, feels impossible. So then the question is who can even be saved? Who can even make it possible. And Jesus tells us this

Matthew 19:25–26:

"Who then can be saved?" Jesus answered, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

God had to make it possible. The prophecies had to be fulfilled. God had to make a way. And Jesus in Luke 4 announces that He is that way.

Luke 4:16–21

He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. ¹⁷ And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me ^[a] to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, at liberty those who are ^[b] oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." ²⁰ Then He closed the

book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹ And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Because Jesus claimed to be God, he must be either a liar (knowingly deceiving), a lunatic (delusional), or the Lord (truthful).

Jesus did not just say He was HIM. Jesus fulfilled 100's of prophecies but here are some of the most significant:

1. Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
2. Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)
3. Betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9; Zechariah 11:12–13)
4. Sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12–13)
5. Silent before His accusers (Isaiah 53:7)
6. Spat upon and struck (Isaiah 50:6)
7. Hands and feet pierced (Psalm 22:16)
8. Mocked and insulted (Psalm 22:7–8)
9. Given vinegar to drink (Psalm 69:21)
10. Cast lots for His clothing (Psalm 22:18)
11. Bones not broken (Psalm 34:20; Exodus 12:46)
12. Buried with the rich (Isaiah 53:9)
13. Pierced side (Zechariah 12:10)
14. Crucified (Psalm 22, Isaiah 53)
15. Resseducted (Psalm 16:10)

And all of this is why Jesus said the following:

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Not a new message. A restoration of Eden.

Jesus is the way to know and enjoy God

Jesus is the truth to trust, follow, and see reality through

Jesus is the life that removes the sting of death.

So what is the message?

It is possible to have a way to God(presence), know the truth about God(restored reality), and have life abundant(true purpose/never die)

So its possible BUT HOW?

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

To repent is to met-an-ah-eh-oh metaneo

It is a decision to change your mind. It is a decision that leads to one changing their Aim and their Action.

John Mark Comer says this of repentance

"To repent is to rethink everything you think you know about who God is, who you are, and what the good life you crave actually is, and put your trust and confidence in Jesus, to heal you, save you, free you, and lead you to the life that you ache for."

Repentance is to view the world from a the reality Jesus came to restore.

That it is all about, has been all about, and will always be all about what Jesus says its about.

It is to take off the glasses you have been wearing and to put on the glasses of the way the truth and the life of Jesus.

If rebellion is to step outside of the kingdom of God, then repentance is to step back inside of the kingdom of God through faith in Jesus.

So what is our part in the text Is to take this message to those who do not have it. So I want to give us three ways

Three ways we blaze a trail for people to hear this message

- **We live in the reality**
 - a. Challenge us to Press Forward in learning our view // Give all of your life to it
 - b. "Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance, the only thing it cannot be is moderately important." - C.S. Lewis
 - c. This isn't perfection it is pressing forward instead of returning back
 - d. Don't be a fool // Leo popcorn kernal and Squal // Lets make a decision here
 - e. Do not be a fool 2 Peter 2:22
- **We proclaim the reality //**
 1. Say The text says say
 2. Faith comes by hearing // Hearing the word of God Repent & believe
 3. Saved by grace through faith
 4. Faith comes from hearing
 5. How will they hear unless someone preaches
 6. PREACHERS AREN'T PASTORS!!!! PREACHERS ARE JESUS FOLLOWERS.
 7. Valley Girls
 - a. This is what the kingdom of God is like // Parables
 - b. His presence is like
 - c. His ways are like
 - d. His life is like
- **We disciple those who perceive the reality**

1. Jesus called us to make disciples // Matthew 28
2. Repent & Believe is the celebration of the start of something new
3. Working with no tools // We must teach them how to have the right tools
4. So that they can experience the kingdom of God here and now because we want the kingdom of heaven to spread here and now. We want God's kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven so that more people can know the way the truth and the life...

CONCLUSION

Jesus finishing up this teaching

Eternity is coming and there is only one demarcation

Lost & Found

We want to help you start your race & we want to teach you how to have the tools