

## INTRO

### Bus Driver Story

Sometimes we focus on the wrong things in life and in our pursuit of following Jesus. As we learned in the Minecraft video, those things (like helping others, and getting into heaven) aren't bad things! But they are the wrong things to focus on. Those concepts came from a number of false gospels that we've discussed before: (Go through each one individually)

- Forgiveness only
- Gospel of the Left
- Prosperity
- Consumer
- Gospel of the Right

Now again, there's nothing wrong with the concepts that these gospels champion, but they leave out the main point that Jesus came to preach and teach his apostles about... Discipleship!! None of these false gospels require believers to disciple anyone else... which is interesting, because we have this thing called the "Great Commission" where Jesus literally tells us to go and make disciples right before he ascends into heaven (Great Commission Verse)

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

So, if we're talking about Gospel Clarity today... one of the first things we need to get correct is:

You cannot make Christlike disciples from a non-discipleship gospel.

And right along with that is:

The gospel you preach determines the disciples you make.

So, here's what I mean by these things... If you are out at sharing the Good News, serving other people, being in relationship with them, loving others... and someone, who is being drawn by the Holy Spirit, approaches you and asks, "Wow! You are on fire! What makes you do the things you do?" You could answer in a variety of ways depending on the Gospel you are there to share: See if you can identify the error in each of these things...

You might say:

"I've made a lot of mistakes in my life that I need to atone for. This is my way of earning God's forgiveness. We all make lots of mistakes, would you like to start earning your forgiveness too, so you can go to heaven??"

Or perhaps:

"God loves me so much that I just want to love other people. There's nothing you need to do or worry about, just let me love you!"

Or maybe:

"Oh, well, I'm really hoping that I can get that new BMW next month, so I figure if I do some stuff for God, maybe he'll do some stuff for me!"

Or:

“Oh, it says in the Bible that I have to serve others, so I’m doing that! And you should too!”

By the way... I had to leave an example for the consumer gospel out because that person probably wouldn’t be out serving in the first place... because they don’t get anything directly from it, except maybe a warm feeling inside about helping others....

Now, there’s a lot wrong with those examples, especially when we’re looking at them in the middle of a conversation like this. But you would be astonished – or maybe you wouldn’t – how many times we hear those things out in the world. And like I said before, they all left out a relationship with Jesus and Discipleship. A guy named Paul was pretty astonished when he wrote a letter to the Galatians though...

<sup>6</sup>I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a **different gospel**— <sup>7</sup> which is really **no gospel** at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. Galatians 1:6-7

Or when he wrote to the Corinthians...

“Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup> By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance<sup>[a]</sup>: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures...” 1 Corinthians 15:1-3 NIV

So, what IS the Gospel?? How should we respond when someone asks us that question when we are out and about and someone is drawn to us by the Holy Spirit?

Well, let's look at what Jesus said:

<sup>14</sup> Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God's Good News.<sup>15</sup> "The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "**The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!**"<sup>16</sup> One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon<sup>[b]</sup> and his brother Andrew throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. <sup>17</sup> Jesus called out to them, "Come, **follow** me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" Mark 1:14-17

### Declarative Statements

- Kingdom

### Imperative Statements

- Repent
- Believe
- Follow

2 year gap between these verses during which the only declarative statement that he taught was the Kingdom. Now we see the other declaratives in chapter 8.

<sup>27</sup> And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup> And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup> And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “**You are the Christ.**” <sup>30</sup> And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him. <sup>31</sup> And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be **killed**, and after three days **rise again**. Mark 8:27-31 ESV

## Declarative statements

- Christ
- Killed
- Rise again

## Talk with Josie

Thank you Josie, that is an awesome way to live out the Gospel and help make disciples! Speaking of the Gospel, I think it's time we Clarify that and look at our definition of Gospel that we took from Jesus' own words:

## Gospel Definition

So, armed with this Gospel, our duty is to make disciples. Discipleship is about being in relation with someone and helping them follow Jesus. Helping them to develop into a Disciple of Christ. And...

A disciple is someone who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus and committed to Jesus' mission.

That's an easy checklist for yourself to determine whether or not you are a disciple. Are you... Following Jesus? Are you... Being changed by Jesus? And are you... Committed to Jesus' mission? If so, it should be evident. If not, that's okay, it just means we have some work to do! And the best way to do that is in relationships with other who are! We call these Bridge Groups. And if you're not involved with one of these I would strongly encourage you to speak with Deb Deal or Tammy Naffie after service and to find a Bridge Group you can join!

So, before we get to our steps of obedience, let's chat about that question I posed earlier... if someone were to approach you and ask you: "Wow! You are on fire! What makes you do the things you do?" You might respond with a number of things... You might say:

"I'm just excited about helping to grow God's Kingdom" or "I serve an awesome king!" or "Because Jesus died for me, I love serving others" or "I do all this through the same power that brought Jesus back from the dead!" But, and this is super important, however you respond to that initial question you should follow it up with... "I would love to sit down and talk with you more about it! Would you like to meet up sometime?"

## Steps of Obedience

1. Know the Gospel
2. Share the Gospel

Question to Answer: Who could you share the Gospel with tomorrow?

How will you do that?