

Sermon Guide: Rediscovering the Good News of Jesus: “Sharing the Good News of Jesus” | Samuel Voo | Feb. 18th, 2024

In this message, Samuel took time to review some of the key aspects of this series on the gospel on which Granville has embarked since January. The gospel story, we’ve learned, is inextricably embedded in the Old Testament narrative, with the promise of an everlasting throne for King David as the major theme which Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection fulfill. It is Jesus’ resurrection, especially, that confirms his lordship and kingship over the universe. This is the crux of the good news we share with the world.

Sam then looked at some of the main speeches in Acts (2:14-36; 7:1-60; 13:16-41; 26:1-23), exploring especially Paul’s defense in Acts 26 to King Agrippa. Despite all these speeches being delivered by different people and to different audiences, there were some common features present to all of them when the apostles of Jesus first shared the good news with others. These elements were: a) Jesus’ fulfillment of the Old Testament story – including especially theme of David’s kingship; b) the centrality of Jesus’ suffering and death and c) the focus on the event of the physical resurrection Jesus as the Messiah.

Acts 26 is especially instructive for us when we think about how we might continue to share the good news of Jesus today, for Paul both gives an account of the gospel as well as his personal encounter of Jesus. We share the good news not only with an *objective* account of the good news of Jesus in the context of the biblical story, but also with a *subjective* account of how we have been and are impacted by this good news. Paul’s encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus led to a complete reversal in his life, demonstrating the Gospel’s power to save and transform, changing him from the early church’s greatest enemy to its greatest evangelist.

Key Takeaways:

- The Gospel is the story of Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament. His death and especially his resurrection are the climactic fulfillment of his enthronement as King. This narrative framework is essential for understanding the Bible as a whole and our place within God’s redemptive plan. [\[12:20\]](#)
- Personal testimonies of encountering Jesus are powerful tools for sharing the Gospel. They demonstrate the subjective reality of God’s saving grace and invite others to experience the same transformative power in their own lives. [\[35:27\]](#)
- The objective truth of the Gospel is rooted in historical events, particularly the resurrection of Jesus. This anchors our faith in something beyond ourselves and provides a solid foundation for sharing the good news with others. [\[36:07\]](#)
- The Gospel calls for a response of obedience and discipleship. Recognizing Jesus as King compels us to turn from self-rule and submit to His lordship, leading to a life of following and walking with Him. [\[15:49\]](#)

In conclusion, the Gospel is the story of Jesus Christ—His life, death, resurrection, and reign as King. It is a message that demands our response, transforms our lives, and offers hope to a world searching for meaning. As we share this good news, let us do so with conviction, compassion, and a deep understanding of its power to save.

Bible Reading:

1. Acts 26:12-18 (ESV)

"In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'"

2. Romans 1:16 (ESV)

"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."

3. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (ESV)

"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,"

Discussion Questions:

1. In Acts 26:12-18, what was Saul's original intention on his journey to Damascus, and how did his encounter with Jesus change his purpose?
2. Reflecting on Acts 26:12-18, what does Jesus appoint Saul to do, and what is the significance of the task given to him?
3. What does Saul's transformation on the road to Damascus suggest about the power of the Gospel to change lives?

Going Deeper:

1. Reflect on a time when you experienced a significant change in your life that you attribute to an encounter with Jesus. How can you share this experience with someone this week?
2. Choose one aspect of Jesus' kingship that you find challenging to submit to. What is a practical step you can take this week to grow in obedience to Christ in this area?
3. Think of a person in your life who is curious about faith. How can you engage them in a spiritual conversation this week by using the historical reality of Jesus' resurrection?