

What is the Gospel?

- a. Repent and believe the Good News!
The kingdom of God has come near. (Call to be baptized)
 - b. How God became King = Jesus Crucified
Bible narrative overview
 - c. The call to Follow (discipleship)
-

INTRO: Last week we investigated the tragedy of humanity;
you, the world and I are broken.

Today: What is God doing about it?

And the main Character: Jesus in his biblical and historical context.

First, we need to set the stage, historically for Jesus: The Exile [5minutes]

- Review the history (Deuteronomy, prophets, and the reality in 587 BCE)
- The partial return but ongoing oppression (see Isaiah 48)
- The universal human experience of exile (we discussed that brokenness last week)

Plug our 2 year Bible reading plan

Encourage students to watch The Bible Project's Video on the Exile -

<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/exile/>

- A moment for questions

JESUS' ISRAEL (the Jews) -

[4min]

Out of fear of assimilation: holding on to their identity markers for the sake of identity, hope, pride, etc...

These identity markers helped them define who was "in" and who was "out"

Big ones for the Jews of Jesus: Torah and Temple, Sabbath, Food Laws, Circumcision

And, at least among the more devout, a hope for the Davidic King (Messiah) who would be the harbinger of Good News - God is coming to restore His people!

The outsiders were the "sinners" - immoral, political compromisers (Roman partners and sympathizers), physically handicapped, widows, gentiles, of course, often, the poor as their work would leave them unclean, often.

- All people groups Jesus intentionally table-fellowshipped with

Violence sometimes irrupted against the oppressors and/or against Hellenized Jews and other Jewish sympathizers/profiteers (Sicarii, Simon the Zealot and Jesus Barabbas)

Encourage students to watch TBP's Video on the Gospel of the Kingdom -
<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/gospel-kingdom/>

- A moment for questions

Repent and believe the Good News, the Kingdom of God is at hand!

REPENT: a new way of being

Following Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, the One True King

→ **What is this good news?**

1. The Beatitudes and Matthew 11:25-30

- Radical redefinition of who is in and a radical reminder of who God cares for
- The poor, the meek, the mourners -- the overlooked and undervalued, the down and out and the overburdened
- Jesus proclaimed himself to be the answer to the spiritual/soul needs of his audience!

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

2. The Great Reversal (or Leveling)

- Mary's Song (Magnificat): Luke 2:46-55
- Parable of the Generous Landowner
 - In tension with our Partnership responsibility - we must always remember that our right-standing in and with God is sheer gift, never earned.
- Matthew 21 → tax-collectors and prostitutes ahead of the religious leaders

3. The Fulfillment of the ancient promises and hopes: inbreaking of the Kingdom

- 2 Sam 7 - who's building whom a house?
- Read Micah 4:1-8 - The Kingdom
- Read Micah 5:1-4 - The King
- Simeon in Luke 2:29 - Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

- **Kings and kingdoms are political realities.**
 - When Jesus proclaimed that the Kingdom was breaking in through his person, his message and his ministry, he was intentionally issuing a challenge to the king, the governor (and the empire he represented) and the Jewish leaders (Sanhedrin/Temple leaders) in league with king and empire.
 - He also called into question the methods and authority of the religious opposition (Pharisees) and the violent revolutionaries (turn the other cheek, go two miles, love your enemies).
 - In many ways, his traveling ministry was a political movement - he even promised ruling authority to his closest disciples!

4. Including Healings, the Forgiveness of Sins and even Raising the Dead to Life!

- These were all OT signs of the coming Kingdom and the Return from Exile!
 - Isaiah 35: the new exodus will be punctuated by the blind seeing, deaf hearing, the lame leaping, and the speechless shouting for joy.
-see Matthew 11 where Jesus responds about his identity and mission to John the Baptist's disciples
- Mark 2:1-17 - Jesus heals as proof of his authority to do what only God (in the Temple) could do - forgive sins
 - And then he demonstrates the opening of fellowship to sinners
 - The Final Table
 - Reappropriating Passover
 - My blood = the forgiveness of sins
- John 11:25 - I am the Resurrection and the Life
 - And then he demonstrates it by raising Lazarus from the dead.
 - And then he is killed and is raised!

→ Jesus proclaims Himself to be the Revelation of God's very Nature and Person

John 14:6-14

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the

evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

- Jesus had just washed their feet
- He's about to go to the cross of his own free will (hold my beer joke)
- *God is like Jesus, God has always been like Jesus, we just didn't always know it.*

The Curriculum of Jesus, the Teacher

★ The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:17-20

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

1. Deepening the scope of the Law
2. Recentering righteousness from legal codes (external) to the heart (cf. Jer. & Ezek.)
3. A transformed heart and life!

The CALL to and COST of DISCIPLESHIP

--following Jesus on the path he walked (he is the way)

Mark 8:34-37, et al

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for **the gospel** will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

- Paul takes up this imagery of Dying to Self in his discussion of Baptism in Rom 6
 - The one who has put to death the old nature is truly FREE!
 - See also Col 3 - where is your mind? Where is your identity?
 - Do you need to be baptized?

- Through forgiveness and reconciliation with God, we are liberated to live the life we were created to live
 - Restored value, humanity and purpose - and hope!
 - return from Exile!!
 - To our true home!
 - This is the life that can overcome the world
- As part of God's new creation that has been made new, we also seek to reconcile and restore
 - Repentance and restitution
 - Cut off your hand, foot, eye = doing whatever it takes
 - Forgive as you've been forgiven; give freely; reconcile...
 - Good works prepared in advance (Eph 2:10)
- So, we follow Jesus and call others to follow him with us
 - *Follow me as I follow Christ*

Philippians 2:1-11

>> the way of Jesus is our path and how Jesus became king/lord!

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death—

even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Companion Resources:

- i. [Lordship and Submission](#) from our 1on1 Plan or This One on [Lordship](#) (by Matt)
- ii. [Humility](#) from our 1on1 Plan

WEEKLY READINGS

- PSALMS 2, 115
- ISAIAH 6
- JOB 38-42
- LUKE 12-14; 17:1-7
- MATTHEW 10-11

Resources:

Watch the Video at <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/exile/>

Watch the Video at <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/the-messiah/> and scroll down download The Messiah Study Notes for a deeply enriching Bible study.

NT Wright, selection from *Simply Christian* describing God's plan through Israel
<http://bit.ly/ntw-plan>