

“The Gospel According to Jesus”

Jesus' words are life and truth, yet many of them are incredibly hard to understand! Why does He call a Gentile woman a "dog" in Matthew 15? Why does He tell the rich young ruler that eternal life is gained by obeying the Law and selling all of one's possessions? Why does Jesus' gospel emphasize works rather than faith? We will never understand the teachings of Jesus unless we are willing to become diligent students of the Word of God; students who are capable of skillfully studying the words and context of Scripture.

Hard Teachings of Jesus

- Matthew 15:22-26
- Matthew 19:16-21
- Matthew 4:23, 17
 - *Luke 3:10-14*
 - *Matthew 5:48*

1) Study Key Words

“Gospel”

1 Samuel 31:8–9

The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the dead, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. They cut off his head, stripped off his armor, and sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines to carry the **good news** to the houses of their idols and to the people.

Isaiah 52:7–8

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings **good news**, who announces peace and brings **good news** of happiness, who announces salvation, and says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”... for they will see with their own eyes when the Lord restores Zion.

1 Corinthians 15:1,3-4

Now I make known to you, brethren, the **gospel** which I preached to you... that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...

“Gospel” = “good news”

- *Paul’s gospel: Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead*
- *Jesus’ gospel...*

2) Study the Context

"The Boys are preparing to fight the Cheese-heads on the Frozen Tundra for the wildcard spot."

- The book as a whole
- The Bible as a whole – one, united story
- The world of the author and audience

- Jesus came to a particular people at a particular time
 - *NOT TO US!! No church, no New Testament yet!*
 - *To 1st Century Jews*

- **1st Century Jews**

- *The Covenant People*
 - Abrahamic: land, seed, worldwide blessing
 - Mosaic: how to get blessed
 - Davidic: king & kingdom
 - New: Spirit – but NOT yet in affect

Explains Matthew 15:22-29

- *Assumed they were already "in"*
 - By blood
 - By outward obedience to the Law

Explains Matt 19 and Sermon on the Mount

- *Desperate for deliverance – Malachi 4*
 - Save/heal God's people – Jesus' priority
 - Destroy God's enemies – Their priority

Explains why they rejected Him

- **Jesus came with a particular mission**

- *Luke 1:30-33 – Davidic King & kingdom*
- *Luke 1:67-79 – fulfill the covenants*

Jesus came to earth to restore the Davidic Kingdom as King and then fulfill all the covenants

- *OT predicted this restoration*

Deuteronomy 30:1–3

"So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind in all nations where the Lord your God has banished you...

"...and you **return to the Lord your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul** according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, then the Lord your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you..."

But restoration requires obedience to the Law

- *Jesus' "gospel of the kingdom"...*

The Davidic Kingdom is here so prepare to enter it by turning from your sins and obeying the Mosaic Law.

Takeaways

- Jesus' words are relevant to us...
- ...but He wasn't speaking to us!
- So it takes work to understand Him
 - *Study key words (don't assume meaning)*
 - *Study Old Testament & covenants*
 - *Study context of 1st Century Jews*

Application

Acts 17:10–11

As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.