

Certainty... in a world of doubt

The Gospel of Luke

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, February 18/19, 2017

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“Deconstructing Religion” Luke 4:16-30

To most people in our society, Christianity is religion and moralism. If you can't show the difference between religion and Christianity people will confuse morality with a changed heart. The gospel is neither religion nor irreligion, but something else entirely – a third way of relating to God through grace. Jesus' teaching consistently offended the Bible-believing, religious people of His day while attracting the irreligious.

What Is the Gospel?

It is God's unmerited favor through the merit of Jesus. vv18-19

- ✓ Good news to the Poor 2Cor8:9; James 1:9-11 Spiritual wealth
- ✓ Release to the Captives Rom6:23; 8:1, 3 Free from the penalty of sin
- ✓ Sight to the Blind 2Cor4:4; Matt13:13,16 Spiritual sight
- ✓ Freedom to the Oppressed Rom8:2, 4; John 8:31-32 Free from the power of sin

Note their response: v22 They were not upset because they were filtering it through their religious world view. So, in verses 23-30 Jesus clarifies who He is sent to. Who are the poor?

Who Is It For?

V18 only the spiritually poor & especially the actually poor
vv25-27 Widow of Zarephath (1Kgs 17:8-24) & Naaman (2 Kgs 5:1-27)

- ✓ People of different ethnic backgrounds.
- ✓ People of different socioeconomic backgrounds.
- ✓ People of different political backgrounds.
- ✓ People with dark pasts and current struggles.

Jesus says to the respectable religious leaders “the tax collectors and the prostitutes enter the kingdom before you” (Matt21:31).

All you need is need!

Why It Causes a Riot or a Revival? Vv28-30

Religion

Morally restrained will
by fear and/or pride

Gospel

Supernaturally transformed
heart by God's love

I obey; therefore
God owes me

Entitlement

Bad Circumstances:
Anger/Blame

Criticized: Defensive

Superiority/Inferiority
(Ethnic, social, political
or religious idolatry)

Prayer: mainly lists
Only heats up in need

Consumer: Self-serving

I obey; because I
forever owe God

Wonder/Gratitude

Bad Circumstances:
Suffer well (2Cor6:10)

Criticized: Teachable

Humble Confidence
(My Identity is in Christ Jesus
who died for His enemies)

Prayer: mainly love
Enjoy practicing His presence

Covenant: self-sacrificing

Growing Notes

- 1) Read the introduction of the sermon notes. What are your thoughts? What is the difference between religion, irreligion and the gospel? Why is it so important to know the difference?
- 2) Read Luke 4:16-30. What stands out to you? What did Jesus customarily do on the Sabbath (v16)? What happened once Jesus entered the synagogue (vv17-20)? How did Jesus apply the passage He read in Isaiah (v21)? How did the people respond (vv22)? How did the people respond after Jesus clarifies His message (vv23-30)?
- 3) What do verses 18-19 tell us about not only Jesus' ministry but also the gospel? The gospel is for not only the spiritually poor (v18) but also especially the actually poor (underdogs, marginalized, outcasts-- Matt21:31). Explain. How does Jesus illustrate this (vv25-27)?
- 4) What does it mean that to receive the benefits of the Gospel (vv18-19) all you need is need (James 4:6)? Why do you think that when the Gospel is clearly understood it will cause either a riot or a revival (vv28-29)? Review the list contrasting Religion vs. Gospel? What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you? Pray.