

11.5.17 Connect w/ the Gospel

1. Intro - New series
2. What is the gospel?
 - a. God wants you to be a healthy person (restored to created design)
 - i. Show "Main Triangle" Image**
 - b. We aren't healthy. We are fractured.
 - i. Interpersonally || Intrapersonally || With world around us
 - c. Ultimately this fracture with everything is because of a fracture with our Creator
 - i. 19 since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, that is, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what he has made. As a result, people are without excuse. 21 For though they knew God, they did not glorify him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became worthless, and their senseless hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man, birds, four-footed animals, and reptiles. 24 Therefore God delivered them over in the desires of their hearts to sexual impurity, so that their bodies were degraded among themselves. 25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served what has been created instead of the Creator, who is praised forever. Amen. (Romans 1:19-25)*
 - ii. Sin breaks things
 1. Me: Kicking the tub || Punching a wall
 2. Others: Verbal abuse → Abuse stops development
 - iii. Our relationship with God, connected by design, was fractured by sin
 1. We realize something is broken
 2. So we try to fix it, connecting that broken strand to everything else
 - a. Idolatry
 - d. Problem: we are fractured and we can't fix it
 - i. We aren't drowning, we are dead.
 - ii. We need to be grabbed from the bottom and then a miracle.
 - e. God sent a rescuer, Jesus
 - i. He wasn't fractured. He wasn't broken.
 - ii. He loved and lived perfectly and died for it
 - iii. Tragedy, but this was planned
 - iv. He was fractured so you could be mended.
 - v. Isa 53:5 But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities;*

*punishment for our peace was on him,
and we are healed by his wounds.*

- f. The good news is that although you can't fix yourself, you don't have to
 - i. You need to trust that Jesus has done everything necessary to connect you with the father
 - ii. Your job is to trust it with everything.
 - iii. Jesus is who he says he is, did what he said he did, will do what he said
 - iv. Genuinely trust in that and you are saved.
3. For those of you who know that truth, you tend to think that it ends there.
 - a. Great, trusted, prayed a prayer, fantastic.
 - b. But the gospel isn't an event that you attend or a box you check
 - c. Biblically we place our trust in the gospel to save us and it frees us guaranteed
 - i. But we also continue to believe in it and are then made more like Jesus
 - d. *Now I want to make clear for you (remind), brothers and sisters, the gospel I preached to you, which you received, on which you have taken your stand and by which you are being saved, if you hold to the message I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. - 1 Corinthians 15:1-2*
 - i. Past - received (hopefully not in vain)
 - ii. Present - being saved
 - e. Why does Paul need to remind them?
 - i. Because the gospel isn't just a prayer you pray
 - ii. The gospel is for every day → Day by day, we repent of unbelief and embrace the gospel
 - f. I'm not saying that if you stop believing the gospel you lose salvation
 - g. I am saying that every sinful struggle in my life comes back to the gospel and my unbelief (yet to be perfect belief). My belief won't be perfect until glory
 - h. *I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. - Galatians 2:20*
 - i. Having trusted in the gospel, you are dead and you live by faith
 - ii. The life we live now is how? By faith
 - iii. If by faith than it is not by flesh
 - i. What this means is that when sin is shown in my life, the problem isn't a weak gospel or a weak God. The problem is my unbelief
4. The gospel and my unbelief
 - a. As a Pastor, I struggle with some themes
 - i. Escape and unhealthy rest
 - ii. Frustration when people don't 'get it'
 - iii. Feeling like I deserve more
 - iv. Robust fanclub - Wanting people to approve of what I say, do, propose
 - v. Each of these things exist because in those moments I forget the gospel
 1. Go through and explain each point
 - b. As a dad, I struggle with some themes

- i. Chaos vs order
 - ii. Controlling behavior of my kids vs. realizing all I can do is create the environment for health (create the fence)
 - iii. Each of these things exist because in those moments I forget the gospel
 - 1. Go through and explain
 - c. I need the gospel.
 - i. Not just for salvation as a received event → I need it for today
 - ii. To see how my struggles, reactions, idolatries stem from a lack of belief
 - iii. Is Jesus as good as he says he is?
 - iv. Is he truly for me?
 - v. Does he really have this situation?
 - vi. Does he know what's best for me? My family?
 - vii. Will I trust him today?
 - viii. If we don't trust, we won't act. We won't obey.
 - d. I need the gospel today if I want to be healthy
 - i. My justification is rooted in the gospel
 - ii. My sanctification today is directly related to my continued choice to believe the gospel
 - iii. My only hope for glorification is in the gospel
 - e. And the same is true for you. You need the gospel. Today. Every day.
 - i. What do you struggle with? (Talk through each)
 - 1. Forgiveness? Generosity? Patience? Insecurity? Gossip? Racism? Anger? Control? Comfort?
 - f. I struggled with this sermon.
 - i. Writing it. I rewrote it four times.
 - ii. Wondering if you'd hate it. Wondering if visitors would come back.
 - iii. Why? Because of unbelief
 - 1. Too much belief in myself... not enough belief in Jesus doing the work
 - 2. Too much belief in your words as my identity instead of Jesus' truth as my identity
 - iv. Unbelief. We need the gospel daily.
5. Can I challenge you?
 - a. Have you trusted the gospel?
 - b. If you have, are you returning to the gospel daily?
 - i. For your identity
 - ii. For your value
 - iii. For your purpose
 - c. Here's an exercise this week: every time you do something stupid or selfish or outright sinful, look in the mirror and ask, "what am I not believing that Jesus said or did?"
 - d. Then, turn to your spouse, kid, parent or friend and ask them the same question (about yourself)

- e. When a loved one does something stupid, selfish or sinful and they know Jesus, ask them what they aren't believing. Get to the root of the behavior
- f. Repent together, returning to the gospel, thanking God for blood-bought grace
- g. If they don't know Jesus, give them grace and pray that God would give you loving words of freedom to share
- h. This series is about health
 - i. Church, disciple, individual
 - ii. Before we can talk about these pieces, we need to realize that the gospel is what holds them together
- i. You need the gospel. Today. Every day.
- j. Revolve your life around that sober reality.