

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL



Luke 5:26-6:16

RECAP

Last week we saw Jesus prove His deity by ...

the authority of His teaching

His authority over creation

His power in calling men to Himself

His ability to heal incurable diseases

His ability to forgive sin.

THEME

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is the power of God to save sinners

MARTIN LUTHER



Romans 1:17 (NASB95). 17 For in it (the Gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."

"it was not the cold blood about the heart, but a single word in Chapter 1, "In it the righteousness of God is revealed" that had stood in my way. For I hated that word "righteousness of God," which, according to the use and custom of all the teachers ... I also found in other terms an analogy, as, the work of God, that is what God does in us, the power of God, with which he makes us wise, the strength of God, the salvation of God, the glory of God. And I extolled my sweetest word with a love as great as the hatred with which I had before hated the word "righteousness of God." Thus that place in Paul was for me truly the gate to paradise.

The Gospel is powerful because it saves sinners (27-32)

- Tax Collectors in Jesus' day
- Two parts to Matthew's response:
 - 1) Repentance- "he left everything behind"
 - 2) Faith- "got up and began to follow Jesus"
"follow"- to continually follow

"Matthew lost a temporal career, but gained an eternal destiny; he forfeited material possessions, but gained "an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven" (1 Peter 1:4); he lost sinful companions, but gained the fellowship of the Son of God.(MacArthur)

The Gospel is powerful because Jesus is unique (33-39)

“They”: Mark tells us this is a combination of the religious leaders and the disciples of John who ask this question

- Fasting was seen as a very serious act of worship
- Fasting was done frequently by the religious leaders and John’s apostles
- Jesus as a bridegroom: A new Concept

Hebrews 10:19–20 (NASB95) — 19 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,

The Gospel is powerful because it is exclusive (36-39)

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- 4,200 religions in the world
 - 84% of the world's population is said to be part of some type of religion

“When we approach the man of a faith other than our own, it will be in a spirit of expectancy to find how God has been speaking to him and what new understanding of the grace and love of God we may ourselves discover in this encounter. Our first task in approaching another people, another culture, another religion is to take off the shoes, for the place we are approaching is holy.... we may forget that God was here before our arrival. God ... has more going on by way of redemption than what happened in first-century Palestine. (Lutzer pg 185)

- *Old cloth on a new garment (36)*
- *New wine into old wineskins (37-38)*
- *Old wine vs new wine (39)*

“The truth of God is the most important thing in the world. It is the message of sin, forgiveness, salvation, and the hope of eternal life. All the truth must be proclaimed no matter what the effects are, whether people embrace it, or are offended by it; whether they accept it and are saved, or reject it, and are eternally lost. There is no common ground between the truth and error” (Macarthur)

The Gospel is powerful because it nullifies man's works (6:1-12)

The Sabbath:

- The Talmud (Jewish book of traditions) has 24 chapters covering the Sabbath regulations
 - One could not travel more than 3,000 ft from their home
 - If someone picked up a package in public, that package must be put down in a private place
 - An object tossed in the air, must be caught with the same hand
 - One could reach out and carry food on the Sabbath as it was seen as carrying a burden on the Sabbath
 - Clothes could not be shaken as an insect might fall out and killed...and then would be seen as a work
 - One could not bathe on the Sabbath as water could spill on the floor and one would have to clean it up
 - Women were forbidden to look in a mirror, since if they saw a white hair, they might be tempted to pull it out.
 - There was no sowing, plowing, reaping, binding sheaves, threshing, winnowing, grinding, kneading, baking, shearing, washing, beating, dyeing, or spinning wool, tying or untying a knot, catching, killing, or skinning a deer, salting its meat, or preparing its skin.
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The Gospel is powerful because it nullifies man's works (6:1-12)

Jesus has authority over the Sabbath (1-5)

Jesus is merciful (6-11)

The Gospel is powerful because it does not need the mighty of this world to be its representatives (13-16)

Who did Christ choose to be His disciples?

- Fishermen (Simon, James, and John)
 - Traitor tax collector (Matthew)
 - Religious/Political Assasian (Simon the Zealot)
 - Some of the others, we aren't told what they did or who they were
 - The Lord uses the “no bodies” of this world to advance His kingdom
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CONCLUSION

The Gospel alone addresses man's greatest need...A righteousness before God

Works based religion is blinding and deadly
