

**1. Your Gospel.** We are all talkers. We talk about the US election result or COVID-19 stats or Netflix. In Mt 12:34 Jesus said: our mouth speaks what our heart thinks. Whatever captures your heart will become your 'gospel'. The gospel is God's plan for the world. Everyone's fate depends on it. It is worth living and dying for. What is the 'gospel'? Most say it is 'good news'. But in old times, 'gospel' meant 'important news' about the birth of a king or a war. It could be good or bad. In old Greece, a man named Pheidippides ran 42 km from Marathon to Athens with the gospel or good news 'Greece won' in a war against Persia. Sadly, he died doing it. A gospel is big news that changes things, like the end of slavery in the USA in 1865.

**2. The Gospel of God** In Rom 1:1-4 the **gospel** is the glorious news of God's plan. It was ...

**a) Promised beforehand** in the Old Testament. It's about a Son of God which God (Rom 1:3)

**b) Revealed in the Scriptures** from King David's family. God created Adam as the first 'son of God' to rule the world. But he disobeyed God, so God judged the world. But in Gen 12:1-3 God promised to bless Abraham with a new land, name/identity and family, and to bless all peoples of the earth! Abraham's family becomes the great nation of Israel also called God's son (Hos 11:1). Gen 35:10-11 says God will bless people by giving a king to Israel to bless the world. Although Israel get a land, Judges 21:25 says 'there was no king in Israel.' In 1 Samuel, God blesses Hannah with a son, Samuel, who anoints the first two kings of Israel. Some kings were good, but most were bad. But in 2 Sam 7:11-14 God promises a king to rule forever from David's family, who will be 'God's Son'. From then, every king from David's family was called 'Son of God', like Solomon or Josiah. Sadly, all these 'sons of God' like Adam, Israel, David failed to rule well, so God judged them and sent Israel out of the promised land into exile. But in Isa 52:7 God kept promising his glorious gospel with news that God will rescue and rule his people as their King. God's people waited a long time.

Finally in Mark 1:15 Jesus comes saying 'The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the gospel'. Although the Romans were ruling, Jesus brings God's

Kingdom by ruling over storms, demons, sickness, death, and sin. He ruled with real authority! In Rom 1:1-4 Jesus' rising the dead shows that he is the true Son of God who succeeded

where Adam, Israel, David and every other king as 'son of God' failed. This makes ...

**c) Jesus Christ our Lord.** The word 'Christ' (or Messiah in Hebrew) means 'anointed one'.

It means the King of Kings! In Acts 2, after God raised Jesus from the dead, Peter says God has made Jesus both 'Lord & Christ'. Jesus rose to rule over everyone and everything. But ...

**3. How does Jesus rule?** In Matt 11:28-30 Jesus asks people to take his yoke. A 'yoke' is wood that binds two animals together to obey their leader. But Jesus' yoke is easy. Jesus, the ruler, does not abuse people, because he is gentle and lowly in heart. The word 'gentle' is also translated in Matt 5:5, 21:5, and 1 Pet 3:4 as 'meek' and 'humble'. 'Lowly' is translated as 'humble' (Jas 4:6), but can mean 'low' socially (Lk 1:52, Rom 12:16). In other words, Jesus is accessible or approachable. When Jesus says: 'my yoke is easy', he is not saying life will be easy or free of pain. He is inviting you to give your burden/troubles to him. That is why sinners come to Jesus in the Bible. Sadly people in the Bible, the Romans, the Jewish leaders, his confused disciples, and even us, reject Jesus' rule. We want to rule our own lives our own way without Jesus. So how did Jesus treat enemies who reject him? 1) Satan is the ultimate enemy. Jesus saves people out of Satan's Kingdom into God's Kingdom 2) Christ died for us while we were his enemies (Rom 5:8-10). In our hearts we lie, lust, watch porn, gossip. We are proud. Yet Jesus asks God the Father to forgive us his enemies. Can you see Jesus' heart? Jesus' kingdom came not with a sword, but sacrifice, not with a crown of iron, but of thorns. In our world, great ones are served. But in Jesus' Kingdom, Jesus and great ones serve. Jesus gave his life as a ransom for many (Mk 10:45). God's gospel is Jesus Christ is Lord because of his death and resurrection. So, how must we respond to this glorious news? In Rom 1:5 by

**4. Obedience and faith.** Do you trust Jesus as your King & Saviour? He saves us by His work, not our work. As saved people we will follow Jesus' way as best way to live. Rosaria Butterfield was a gay university professor in America. After reading the Bible, and hearing God's gospel, she gave up everything to trust Jesus as her own Lord and Saviour. Rosaria changed her life to live Jesus' way.

**5. For His Name's sake.** Does Jesus Christ capture your heart like this? If so, then Jesus is the one we will talk about!