

## **SHARING THE GOSPEL: PART 4**

### **1. PERSONAL EVANGELISM:**

#### **ANYTHING TO SHARE? – ENCOURAGEMENTS / DISCOURAGEMENTS / ETC**

### **2. THE PARABLE OF THE SOILS – MARK 4:1-20**

#### **Jesus's example:**

- He is concerned to teach the word - 1:14, 21, 35, 2:2, 13, 4:1-2, 33
- He meets a variety of reactions – adulation (chs1-2), rejection (3:2,6,19,20-22)
- And in both situations he continues to sow the word

#### **Mark 4:1-20. The parable of the soils: realism and encouragement**

As the word of God is taught, the kingdom grows. So, we PRAY... and we SPEAK.  
What will happen?...

- **Don't expect too much**
  1. Hard-hearted people
  2. Shallow people – joy is not a reliable sign.
  3. Thorny people – entangled by other things [And us? – thorns, sins?]
  
- **Don't expect too little**
  4. There IS good soil.
    - NB. At first, #s2-4 look the same. Time reveals the truth.
    - As people hear, there WILL be good soil.
    - Are we expecting God to work?

### **3. SHARING THE WHOLE GOSPEL**

**“2 Ways to Live” – see over →**

**1. God is the loving ruler of the world. He made the world. He made us rulers of the world under him**

*"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."  
(Revelation chapter 4, verse 11)*



**But is that the way it is now?**

**4. Because of his love, God sent his son into the world: the man Jesus Christ. Jesus always lived under God's rule. Yet by dying in our place he took our punishment and brought forgiveness**

*Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.  
(1 Peter chapter 3, verse 18)*



**But that's not all...**

**2. We all reject the ruler – God – by trying to run life our own way without him. But we fail to rule ourselves or society or the world.**

*There is no-one righteous, not even one; there is no-one who understands, no-one who seeks God. All have turned away.  
(Romans chapter 3, verses 10-12)*

**What will God do about this rebellion?**



**5. God raised Jesus to life again as the ruler of the world. Jesus has conquered death, now gives new life and will return to judge.**

*Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.  
(Philippians 2:9-11)*

**Well, where does that leave us?**



**3. God won't let us rebel forever. God's punishment for rebellion is death and judgement.**

*Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.  
(Hebrews chapter 9, verse 27)*

**God's justice sounds hard. But...**

**6. There's a choice: there are only 2 ways to live**

**Our way:**

Reject the ruler – God. Try to run life our own way.  
**Result:** condemned by God. Facing death and judgement.

**God's new way:**

Submit to Jesus as our ruler.  
Rely on Jesus' death and resurrection.  
**Result:** forgiven by God. Given eternal life.

*"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."  
(John chapter 3, verse 36)*

**So, "Which way do I want to live?"**



## The “logic” of the Gospel

- 1: Ownership →
- 2: Sin = rebellion against my maker and owner →
- 3: God is angry at my rebellion →
- 4: Jesus died bearing God’s anger →
- 5: Jesus is alive – the Cross worked, & Jesus is Lord of all →
- 6: So, trust in the Lord Jesus Christ

### Discuss:

**What will happen if a non-believing friend DOESN’T hear about and understand...**

1. God the creator
2. Sin (as defined by the Bible)
3. Judgement and hell
4. The Cross
5. The resurrection (the fact... and its implications)
6. Conversion / the choice we all face

## **4. HOW DOES THE GOSPEL ADDRESS QUESTIONS AND OBJECTIONS?**

### Worldviews...

Christian people...

Live LIFE a certain way... because of our BELIEFS... which are founded on our supreme AUTHORITY (the Bible).

We know that the Gospel is both GOOD and TRUE

Similarly, non-believing people...

Live LIFE a certain way... because of their BELIEFS... which are founded on their supreme AUTHORITY

They do NOT yet know that the Gospel is both GOOD and TRUE

➔ **Our prayerful task:** lovingly show people that the Gospel is both good and true... and that their current way of life is neither good nor true... in the course of everyday life and relationships

### Discuss:

**Select a few statements from the list over the page. Talk about how the Gospel connects with that statement.**

### **1: Ownership**

I can do what I want. / it's up to me how I live my life.

There's no point to anything. Everything's just an accident. And we're just accidents. Life is meaningless.

Everything is God: the world, us – everything.

We're just a bunch of atoms and DNA – there's no purpose to our lives.

Why shouldn't we worship statues, or animals, or ourselves – what's the big deal?

I've got really low self-esteem – sometimes I think I'm not worth anything at all.

Why do I matter as a person? – because I've got great friends, cool clothes & and an awesome job.

My sex life is up to me – as long as I don't hurt someone, I can do what I like?

### **2: Sin = rebellion against my maker and owner**

The main thing is that you don't hurt other people – as long as you do that, you're fine with God.

It'd be much better if God just forgot about all our sins.

My life's a mess – why's it all gone wrong?

If only we tried a bit harder we could sort out the world/my family/my friendships.

We're all God's children deep down.

God's rules are really restrictive – things are much better when I'm in charge.

It's a good thing to put God to one side and do things your own way. It's called growing up.

### **3: God is angry at my rebellion**

I like to think that when I die I'll be fine – I just can't imagine I'd go to hell.

They should lock up that murderer/ paedophile/ rapist and throw away the key.

I really don't understand what I need saving from – I'm basically good.

It was such a shame Jesus died so young – what was the point of all that?

But God's judgement just isn't fair, is it?

Climate change is the biggest problem facing humanity.

I can't believe people like Hitler and child abusers get away with it most of the time.

### **4: Jesus died bearing God's anger**

I could never be forgiven – I'm too bad.

Going to church / youth group / doing religious stuff will see me right with God.

So God's loving... but he's also angry. How does that fit together – aren't they contradictions?

You can never be sure God's not still angry with you.

This Christianity thing seems a bit airy-fairy. How do I know it's not just a bunch of stories.

Every way to God is equally valid – they'll all get you there in the end.

God doesn't know the pain I'm going through – and it's just not fair.

### **5: Jesus is alive – the Cross worked, & Jesus is Lord of all**

Why should I take Jesus seriously? – he was a pretty weak guy, and he's dead anyway.

What evidence is there I'm going to be judged. I do bad stuff, but I'm going to get away with it.

Christianity is just a nice thought: heaven and all that. But it's not real.

When you die, you rot. Death is just the end.

When I see Jesus I'm going to give him a piece of my mind.

### **6: So, trust in the Lord Jesus Christ**

Christianity is about being good.

But what can I do to make God happy with me?

I'm going to hedge my bets for now – give Jesus a bit of time, but keep my options open.

If Jesus gives forgiveness free of charge, then I can live how I like. Cool!

But I could never have enough faith.

Faith? – you've either got it or you haven't.

It doesn't matter *what* you believe, so long as you really mean it.

I'm going to be an invisible Christian