

5. John the Baptist pointed people to Jesus.

And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." Mark 1:7-8 (ESV)

All services which a slave does for his master, a pupil should do for his teacher with the exception of undoing his shoes. —Rabbinic saying

He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, Titus 3:5-6 (ESV)

6. Application

1. **Before anyone can embrace Jesus as their savior, they need to see the truth of their sin.**
2. **Jesus is the only one that can change your life.**
3. **Life is about pointing people to Jesus.**

Life Group Questions

1. When Jews and Romans heard the word gospel in the first century, what did it mean to them? Why is this term important?
2. Why is repentance from sin an essential part of knowing Christ and continuing in a relationship with God? (See Luke 18:13-14; Proverbs 28:13)
3. What is wrong with repentance that doesn't show itself in actions? What action did John the Baptist call people to take when they repented and why was it hard? What kind of hard actions does God call us to do when we truly repent of our sin? (See Acts 26:20; Luke 3:8; Luke 19:8)
4. John claimed the only true change his baptism could make was getting people wet. He preached about Jesus coming to baptize with the Holy Spirit and change people from the inside out. What are some ways the Holy Spirit changes us when we become a Christian? (See Galatians 5:22-23; Acts 9:31, 2 Corinthians 13:14; Titus 3:5-6, 1 John 4:7)

MARK THE KING AND THE CROSS

The King Is Coming!

September 30, 2018

1. The Introduction To The Book

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Mark 1:1 (ESV)

A. What did the word "gospel" mean to the Jews?

Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. Isaiah 40:9-10 (ESV)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Isaiah 52:7 (ESV)

B. What did the word "gospel" mean to the Romans?

The providence which has ordered the whole of our life showing concern and zeal has ordained the most perfect consummation for human life by giving it to Augustus, by filling him with virtue for doing the work of a benefactor among men and by sending in him, as it were, a Savior for us and those who come after us to make war to cease, to create order everywhere, the birthday of the God Augustus is the beginning for the world of the gospel that has come to men through him." - Inscription to Caesar Augustus on his birthday, 9 BC.

C. The new king is Jesus, who is the Christ.

"You shall call his name Jesus, for He will save his people from their sins" Matt 1:21

Great salvation he brings to his king, and shows steadfast love to his anointed (Messiah/Christ), to David and his offspring forever.
2 Samuel 22:51 (ESV)

...correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth... 2 Timothy 2:25 (ESV)

D. The new king has God as His father.

2. God promised he would announce King Jesus' arrival.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,' Mark 1:2–3 (ESV)

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me...
Malachi 3:1 (ESV)

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Isaiah 40:3 (ESV)

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Malachi 3:1 (ESV)

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Isaiah 40:3 (ESV)

3. John the Baptist prepared people for Jesus by helping them see their sin and repent of their sin.

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Mark 1:4–5 (ESV)

...Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Luke 3:8 (ESV)

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Matthew 3:7 (ESV)

4. John the Baptist looked and acted like an Old Testament prophet.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. Mark 1:6 (ESV)

They answered him, "He wore a garment of hair, with a belt of leather about his waist." And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite." 2 Kings 1:8 (ESV)

and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." Luke 1:17 (ESV)

For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. Matthew 11:13–14 (ESV)

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. Matthew 7:15 (ESV)