

## TALKING JESUS: "HIS MESSAGE"

**THESIS:** Talk The Message

**TEXT:** Mark 1:14-20

**OPEN:** (Article "Don't Overcomplicate Evangelism" by Tony Merida from *outreachmagazine.com*)

In **Mark 1:14-20** let's discover why we should talk about Jesus and His gospel.

**Mark 1:14-15** "After John (the Baptist) was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup>'The time has come,' He said. 'The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!'"

Why was John the Baptist put in prison?

**Matthew 14:3-5** "Now Herod had arrested John and bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, for John had been saying to him: 'It is not lawful for you to have her.' Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of the people, because they considered him a prophet."

**Historical:** Times of detention were neither limited nor strongly enforced, and ordinarily the prisoner was poorly treated. Many were beaten, tortured and given inadequate food and water, although a prisoner of higher status would often fare better. John the Baptist was imprisoned for accusing Herod Antipas of adultery and thus threatening his political authority (*Archaeological Study Bible*, p. 1826; *MacArthur NT Commentary, Matthew 1-7*, p. 104).

What is the good news of God? Jesus says, "The time has come—the kingdom of God is near—repent and believe."

**Repent** (Greek: *metanoeo*) means to perceive afterwards--implying to change the mind. It's an "about-face."

**\*Ephesians 4:22-31** "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor...In your anger do not sin...He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen...Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice."

Talk the message of Jesus: "Repent and believe the good news." What is the good news of the kingdom of God?

**Mark 1:16-20** "As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>'Come, follow Me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.'

<sup>18</sup>At once they left their nets and followed Him. <sup>19</sup>When He had gone a little farther, He saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. <sup>20</sup>Without delay He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed Him."

Being a Christian—a follower of Jesus—means you're to be a walker and talker of His message. What is the good news of the kingdom of God and why is it so?

1. **Acts 2:22** “Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through Him, as you yourselves know.”
  - A. **Accredited** (Greek: *apodeiknymi*) means to confirm, establish, prove, or vouch for.
  - B. **Insight from theologian Richard Keyes:** “Skeptics and critics try to undermine the gospel by saying things like ‘If Christ’s miracles really happened then where are the reports by historians of that era? We only have the biased claims of Christ’s supporters.’ But who was truly biased? Can we count on those who rejected Jesus to have been unbiased? Why? Those closest to the events had high stakes in trying to protect their power base. The reports of Jesus’ followers actually gain a certain authority because of their willingness to die for their witness to the resurrection.”
2. **Acts 2:23 (KJV)** “Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.”
  - A. **Determinate** (Greek: *horizo*) means to decree, mark off by boundaries—“emphasizes the state of completion—God willed the death of Jesus” (Rienecker/Rogers, *Linguistic Key To Greek NT*, p. 266).
    1. **1 Peter 1:18-20** “For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a Lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.”
    - B. **Insight from Edwin A. Blum:** “The meaning of ‘chosen’ is more than foresight. The word connotes purpose. The redemption (of man from sin) was in the plan of God before creation occurred and has since been revealed in Jesus. With His first arrival, the last age has come. Salvation through faith in Christ purposed before creation is now made plain—Peter says, ‘for your sake.’ He personalizes it to spur you to a life of response to God” (*Expositor’s Bible Commentary, 1 & 2 Peter*, p. 225).
3. **Acts 2:24, 32** “But God raised Him from the dead, freeing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him...<sup>32</sup>God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.”
  - A. **Witness** (Greek: *martys*) denotes one who affirms what he has seen, heard, or knows.
    1. **Acts 10:39-42** “We are witnesses of everything (Jesus) did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed Him by hanging Him on a tree, but God raised Him from the dead on the third day and caused Him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the One whom God appointed as Judge of the living and the dead.”
    - B. **Quote from Dr. Paul Maier:** “If all evidence is weighed carefully and fairly, it is indeed justifiable, according to canons of historical research, to conclude that the tomb in which Jesus was buried was actually empty on the morning of the first ‘Easter.’ And no shred of evidence has yet been discovered in collection of ancient inscriptions or archaeology that would disprove this statement.”
4. **Acts 2:33** “Exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.”
  - A. **Exalted** (Greek: *hypsoo*) means to ascend, elevate, or to raise high.
  - B. **Historical:** In Biblical days, to be seated at the right hand of a king was an exclusive place reserved for the king’s firstborn son. Thus, the prince was a “manifestation” and extension of the king—his equal in honor, power, and authority. Jesus is the Prince of God and worthy of our worship and obedience.
5. **Acts 2:34-36 (NASB)** “For it was not David who ascended into Heaven, but he himself says: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, <sup>35</sup>until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.’ <sup>36</sup>Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.”

- A. **Made** (Greek: *poieo*) means appointed, constituted, or produced.
1. **Mtt 28:18-20a** “Jesus came to the disciples and said, ‘All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.’”
  2. **Insight from Gareth L. Reese:** “Know for certain” means be assured, know without any hesitation or possibility of mistake. The Apostle Peter is urging his audience to believe the evidence that has been presented (OT prophecy, miracles, crucifixion, resurrection, eyewitness accounts, etc.) to establish the fact that Jesus of Nazareth is the Sovereign and Savior—the exalted Son of God. In clear language, Scripture affirms we should not look for Jesus to sit on some earthly throne in the future in the belief that He is not yet sitting at the throne of God because Jesus is and has been sitting at the right hand of the throne of God since His ascension to Heaven and exaltation there (*NT History, Acts*, p. 72).

**CONCLUSION:** What is the good news of the kingdom of God we are to talk and walk for Jesus? **Acts 2:38** (KJV) “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission (forgiveness) of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy (Spirit).”

\***Remission** (Greek: *aphesis*) means a sending away. It’s the releasing of a person from a legal obligation or penalty.

It cancels the penalty of a crime, while still being guilty of it

**CLOSE:** Let’s talk the good news message of Jesus—repentance and the forgiveness of sin for salvation in Him.