

The Evangelism Model of Jesus and the Jewish Apostles

Introduction

Objective To study the core content of the Gospel of Jesus and the Jewish Apostles as they communicated it to both Jews and Pagans before and after the Cross. Observe the different approaches to those with various sacred and secular worldviews. Make practical application of those principles to our methods for engaging individuals with the Gospel of Jesus in our post Christian society.

Subjects

- The Gospel in the Old Testament and New Testament
- The Gospel in the words of Jesus and the Apostles
- The common denominators of it's core content
- The various approaches to different people
- Summary of Biblical principles for application in witnessing

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Contextual introduction - The Gospel of the Old Testament according to John the Baptist and Jesus

What is the Gospel? Gospel is literally good news about what? It depends on the context.

The Gospel of the Kingdom in the Old Testament Period contrasted with the Gospel in the Church age

- **Old Testament (OT) - Before the Cross - Gospel Of the Kingdom**
- **New Testament (NT) - After the Cross - Gospel of the Death Burial and Resurrection 1 Cor. 15:1-3**
- **The four gospels of the NT up until the cross is a record of the final events of the OT time period.**
- **The OT time period lasted through the lifespan of John the Baptist and Jesus up to His death.**
- **The four Gospels show the Old Covenant being fulfilled by Jesus in real time under the Law, OT.**

The Gospel during John The Baptist's and Jesus' life. It was good news about:

- **The Kingdom**
- **The King is here and is ready to establish His Kingdom. The announcement was of a literal King.**
- **It was preached for just a short period of time from John the Baptist and up until the leaders of Israel rejected Jesus in Matthew 12:24-27. (approximately 2-3 years Matthew 3-12)**
- **John the Baptist** Matt. 3:2 "saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
- **Preached by the Prophets** Matt. 11:13 "all the prophets and the law prophesied until John."
- **Under the law** Gal 4:4,5 "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a

woman, made **under the law, To redeem them that were under the law**, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”

Matt. 5:17 “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.”

Luke 18:31 “Then he took *unto him* the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are **written by the prophets** concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished.”

Matt. 26:56 “But all this was done, that the **scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled**. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.”

- **The OT time period lasted up until the crucifixion.**

“This is the NT in my blood which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” Matt. 26:28

Col. 2:14 “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, **nauling it to his cross.**”

- **The core content of salvation has always been repentance toward God for mercy regarding our sin and faith in God resulting in His imparted righteousness.**

Genesis 15:6 “He believed in the LORD; and He counted it to Him for righteousness.” Rom. 4:3

Rom 10:3,4 “For they being ignorant of **God's righteousness**, and going about to establish **their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end (fulfillment/completion) of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.**”

What was the content of that Gospel of the Kingdom according to John the Baptist?

- **PREPARE your heart for the Lord**

- Luke 3:4,5 “Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways *shall be* made smooth”

- **REPENT.** Mat. 3:2 “saying, Repent ye...”

- **John’s Gospel of repentance/heart preparation, demanded LIFE EVIDENCE as a measurement**

- Be baptized.

- Share with the poor.

- Stop cheating people.

- Do no violence.

- Don’t falsely accuse.

- Be content with your wages.

The content of John’s message was repentance/heart preparation for the coming of the King.

Matt 3:8 “Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance” Luke 3:10-14 “the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then? He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise. Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse *any* falsely; and be content with your wages.”

To conflate the Gospel of the kingdom in this text with the Gospel of the death burial and resurrection of Jesus places conditions on salvation and makes repentance for salvation equivalent to works of reformation of one’s behavior to become acceptable to God. This adds works to salvation by grace, which Paul clearly called an

accursed message. Galatians 1:8,9

Were people that were baptized according to John's message saved?

- **John the Baptist said No.**

"I am not the Christ." John 1:19,20 John had said RECEIVE HIM when He arrives - He will save you.

Luke 3:6 "And all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

John 1:36 "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world."

- **The Apostle Paul said No.** Disciples of John only had half of the message – Repent

Act 19:1-5 "And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, **Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.** Then said Paul, **John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance**, saying unto the people, that **they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."**

- **Even Baptism by John THE Baptist was insufficient to save. It only was a profession of repentance not a profession of saving faith. Actually the only "public profession" of faith for new believers in the New Testament was believer's baptism.**

The Evangelism Model of Jesus and the Jewish Apostles

How were people saved in the OT?

Jesus' and His Disciples continued this same message of the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Mark 1:14,15 "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God**, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe **the gospel.**"

Since Jesus had not died yet, what is the definition of that "Gospel"?

Luke 8:1 "And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the **glad tidings of the kingdom of God.**"

The Gospel during John and Jesus' ministries was Good News - about?

- **The Kingdom**
- **The Gospel of the Kingdom was that the King was here and ready to establish His Kingdom. Repent and believe in Him.**
- **It was preached for just a short period of time from John the Baptist up until the leaders of Israel rejected Jesus.**

The Gospel of the ...

- **OT - Before the Cross - Gospel Of the Kingdom.**
- **NT - After the Cross – Gospel of the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus. 1 Cor. 15:1-3**
- **The majority of the four Gospels up until the cross is a record of the final events of the OT time period.**

The "OT" time period lasted up until the crucifixion.

"This is the new testament in my blood which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Matt. 26:28

Col 2:14 "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross"

It was GOOD NEWS "The time is fulfilled, the kingdom of God is at hand" Mark 1:15

In other words: Times up. Ready or not, Messiah is here. Jesus said, I am He. Repent and Believe.

John 4:25,26 "The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, He will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he."

To those disciples who believed and followed Him, Jesus promised. Entrance and rulership in His Kingdom of Israel. Jesus called this future time "the regeneration". Matthew 19:28 Everyone who enters this kingdom on the regenerated earth will have to be regenerated by faith in Jesus. Titus 3:5 That was still future when he told them but they correctly expected Him to establish it then and it is still future to us today. Although "the regeneration" nationally for Israel and globally is still future, individual regeneration is available and necessary. John 3: 1-16

- **Abraham's Salvation before the Law So how were people saved in the OT?**
- **Case Study - Abraham was Saved By Faith.** "he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness." Gen. 15:6
Rom. 3:1.3 "What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness."
- **Dr. Charles C. Ryrie described the significance of this new era, (of dispensation if Promise to Abraham) "Until this dispensation, all mankind had been directly related to God's governing principles. Now God marked out one family and one nation and in them made a representative test of all."**

- **The scriptural origin of the “Dispensation of Promise” is found in Gen. 12:2,3; 13:14-17 15:2-6.**
 - **Hebrews gives us the key word: “Promise.” Abraham “obtained the promise”. (Heb. 6:15) The origin of that is recorded from Genesis 12 through Exodus 18. That covenant is the basis for all other covenants.**
 - **This Promise was based on the unconditional Abrahamic Covenant.** Its purpose was to secure a godly lineage through which the Redeemer would come to bless all the families of the Earth with the gift of righteousness by faith in that Promise. The ruling factor in Abraham’s life was obedience in faith to that promise. In his Book There Really is a Difference, Dr. Renald Showers defines a “ruling principle” as that which “makes a difference in the way people live.”(2) Paul succinctly describes Abraham’s life of promise. “And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised he was able to perform And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.” Rom. 4:20-22 His obedience was evidence of his faith not of his attempts to earn righteousness.
 - **OT believers were saved by faith, not a mystic vision of a future Messiah dying on a Roman cross. It’s more like how we use a credit card. Their salvation was received on faith credit before payment was made by Jesus.**
 - **NT believers were saved by faith. It is like using a debit card. Our salvation is received by faith on resources that are already on deposit.**
- Salvation before Christ’s death and afterward is on the basis of a covenant. The shell containing all of the Covenants is “The Everlasting Covenant” Mentioned 13 times 11 in OT, 1 in Hebrews and 1 in Revelation (See Appendix A)**
- **To Abraham and his descendants it was indicated by circumcision**
Gen. 17:7 “And I will establish my covenant between me and thee.”
 - **To Isaac’s descendants not Ishmael**
Gen. 17:19 “And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an **everlasting covenant**.”
1Ch.16:17 “And hath confirmed the same **an everlasting covenant...**”
 - **To Isaac’s descendants not Ishmael to Jacob for a law, and to Israel**
Gen. 17:19 “I will establish my covenant with him for an **everlasting covenant, and** with his seed after him.”
 - **To Jacob and Israel through his 12 sons.**
1Ch.16:17 “And hath confirmed the same **to Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant**”
 - **To David who was Promised an everlasting throne.** “yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all *things*, and sure: for *this is* all my salvation, and all *my* desire.” 2 Sam. 23:5
“I will make an **everlasting covenant** with you, *even* the sure mercies of David.” Isa. 55:31
 - **To Israel through the New Covenant**
Spiritually
“And I will make an **everlasting covenant** with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.” Jer. 32:40
Nationally “Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an **everlasting covenant** with them.” Ezek. 37:26
 - **To all who believe**
“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the **everlasting covenant**, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will.”
Heb. 13:20,21

Though the New Covenant national aspect of the everlasting covenant is yet to be accepted by Israel, and inaugurated King Jesus, He ratified it and activated individual salvation by it and made it available to all through faith in His blood.

Heb. 13:20,21 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the **everlasting covenant**,

Salvation under the everlasting Covenant will still continue after the Rapture when the dispensation of the Church Age is over.

Following the two witnesses and the evangelistic campaign of the 144,000 witnesses the Everlasting Gospel will be heralded from the skies to all mankind.

Rev 14:6 “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the **everlasting gospel** to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.”

By Faith - Abraham “believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.” Gen. 15:6 Repentance toward God and Faith in God for mercy and faith in His righteousness to be imparted to you is the only way salvation has ever been received.

Case Study - Nicodemus was a religious Jew who still lived under the law, in "OT" times before the cross.

**How were people saved while the Gospel of the Kingdom was being preached? By Faith
Nicodemus still lived under the law, in "OT" times before the cross.**

Objectives of this lesson:

- Understand how people were saved who lived in Jesus' day under the OT Law
- Gain insight on how to witness to very religious (Jewish) people who depend on good works

God saved them before the blood of Jesus was offered and accepted on heaven's mercy seat The means was sacrificial blood for temporary atonement. The blood of bulls and goats could never take away sin but were required as a temporary covering for sin. Heb. 10:1-17 "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us.*" Heb. 9:12 The basis was the **everlasting Covenant.** Heb. 13:20,21

1. Seek to understand people's mindset from their background.

- **Pharisee** - kept the Sabbath, fasted often, separated from worldly sinners, tithed, kept kosher dietary laws, prayed long prayers with prayer shawls and phylacteries (tefillin), Studied the scripture, went to Temple, kept the feasts of Leviticus 23, washed often before eating
- **Outwardly righteous** They were the best human standard known to Jews. Matt.5:20 "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and **Pharisees**, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." **Paul defines his former devotion as a Pharisee.** Act 26:5 "after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee."
- **Member of the Sanhedrin** "a ruler of the Jews" , "Master of Israel" one of those who "sit in Moses' seat" Mat 23:2,3 God told Moses to pick 70 to be judges of the peoples conflicts. Numbers 11:16

Jesus commanded his Jewish disciple living under the Law before His death to obey their commands but not to follow their practice or lack thereof. "All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe" Mat 23:2,3 To teach disobedience to God's Law or to the man-made traditions of the God ordained judges would have been to teach disobedience to God. Jesus kept the law and He taught His Jewish disciples to do so.

A study of Jesus' confrontations with them and Conservative Judaism of today reveals the identical superseding of the Torah/Law of Moses by their manmade traditions.

1. Superseding the Law of God through the Traditions of men/Talmud. "Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye." Mark 7:7-9,13 Although the Talmud was not codified until 200 years after Jesus, the traditions of Rabbi's back to the Babylonian exile, known as the oral Law, were already on higher footing than the written Law.

2. Focus on external cleanness instead of internal righteousness. "Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity." Matt. 23:26-28 When I asked young Jewish entrepreneur how Jews become righteousness, he replied, "When we do right on the outside it makes us better on the inside." This illustrates how Paul summarized his Jewish brethren as "ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." Rom. 10:3 Exposure to the Jewish scriptures on the righteous judgment of God and His required blood atonement are essential. Ezekiel 18:20

3. Refusal to believe the works and words of Jesus. "If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered

them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. John 10:24,25. Since reading the words and works of Jesus are forbidden we must answer the call. "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?" Rom. 10:14,15

4. Refusal to believe in a Messiah who would be God in flesh and suffer and die for sins.

"If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God." Matt.27:42,43 Classic passages like Psalm 22, and Isaiah 53 clearly predict a suffering, dying Messiah.

5. Rejection of any need for blood atonement "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Matt. 26:28

The requirement blood atonement in Lev. 17:11 has never been rescinded. Final authority rests solely with God's revealed written Word. It is against this perfect Law that man's traditions must be measured. The laws of men can only conform outward actions. Their traditions later codified in the Talmud had become nullifying traditions superseding actual divine commands.

2. State what is necessary to get to Heaven. He came to Jesus voluntarily seeking an answer. Jesus answered bluntly to the point. Spiritual Birth is necessary to enter the Kingdom of God. John 3:3-8

The words "Unless a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of Heaven" and "not perish but have everlasting life" John 3:3,16 indicate that entrance into the literal Millennial Kingdom by a Jew under the Law required a "born again" experience that gave everlasting life as a prerequisite to entrance into a 1000 year Kingdom. Since Nicodemus was living in the O.T. dispensation, the Gospel of Salvation in the O.T. was by being born again.

3. Don't rebuke their doubt but rather deal with their lack of knowledge. John 3:9,10 "Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things.?"

4. Find out what they have been taught about who they think Jesus is? A Rabbi, A good man, a prophet? "We know" Nicodemus was secure with their group consensus. They acknowledged Jesus was from God because of his miracles. Matt. 16:13 "When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets."

5. Deal with false assumptions but get back on track.

False assumption #1 - A person who does good works must be from God therefore good.

False assumption #2 – Jesus is a good man and obviously has God's favor.

Jesus' reply brought it back to His Identity. Only God is Good. Only God can do miracles.

Is Jesus a man or God in Flesh? He does miracles and He does good therefore...

6. Find out who they think Jesus is? Matt. 16 :15 "He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?"

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Mat 16:13-16

7. Use but define Biblical terminology. Remember the people we are sharing the Gospel with have unsaved ears. Using spiritual terms with no definition or illustration is worse than giving a blind person ear plugs.

What does it mean to-be saved? To be a "believer"? Born again? Become a child of God?

8. Use physical illustrations to shed light on spiritual terminology.

- **Illustration of faith in the visible** – physical birth (water) produces physical life spiritual life must also begin with a spiritual birth (spirit) and is not automatic at physical birth
- **Illustration of faith in the invisible** – John 3:8 wind invisible. Yet we believe it. We see the results of wind but don't understand the path.
- **Pointed question by Jesus** - If you do not understand earthly illustrations about birth, wind and you do not know that scripture speaks of a new birth then how will you understand Heavenly things?
 Why can we easily believe in a natural phenomenon but not in a spiritual phenomenon? 3:7-12
 "Marvel not" Jesus marveled that Nicodemus was a teacher of the Torah & did not know this.
- **Use Scriptural illustrations - Moses putting the serpent on the pole** Numbers 21:4-9 This was basic Bible history taught to Jewish children possibly by Nicodemus in his own Synagogue.
 - ✓ God's judgment on sinful complaining Israelites was death by serpent bite.
 - ✓ The people came to Moses repentant over their sin.
 - ✓ God allowed a substitute for their sin likeness of a serpent on a pole.
 - ✓ God required faith in His promise by looking at the object of their death.
 - ✓ Salvation physically came when they repented, looked to the cursed snake & trusted God to reverse their death sentence and give them life.

Scriptural exposition applied. John 3:14-18 In the same way the only means of spiritual rebirth is to look to the coming suffering Messiah who will be lifted up accursed on a pole/tree as the substitute to take punishment of our sin. John 3:15,16 "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

- **Scriptural investigation is needed** John 3:10 "knowest not these things?" It was clear in the Psalms and Prophets. Jeremiah 13:30-33 describes the new birth. We need a new heart under a new covenant. His death was predicted in Daniel 9:24-27, Psalm 22, Isaiah 53. He was prophesied to die with pierced hands and feet. Zechariah 12;10; 13:6. God commands us to know, worship and kiss His Son. Psalm 2, Proverbs 30:4.
- **No spiritual response was recorded at that discussion. Jesus let the scripture and Spirit go to work.**
- **Nicodemus later restrained his peers from arresting Jesus and asked them to listen to Jesus. Was he saved by that time or under great conviction?**
 John 7:50,51 "Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,) Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?"
- **He joined Joseph of Arimathaea to give Jesus body a proper burial which seems to evidence faith.**

The Gospel of the Kingdom was literally offered to the nation. Individuals could not enter that literal kingdom of Heaven poised "at the door", without repentance and faith in Jesus the Messiah. His kingship and kingdom was rejected and the literal national establishment was postponed. Both Jews and gentiles were required to be born again and receive eternal life based on the "blood of the new covenant" soon to be offered by Jesus. Later as King of the Jews He will set up a worldwide Kingdom based in Jerusalem. Just prior to that, the everlasting covenant will reach its fulfillment in the "everlasting gospel". Rev 14:6 A innumerable host from every tribe and nation will also believe during the Tribulation just before "all Israel shall be saved" Rom 11:26

To Nicodemus, the words “Unless a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of Heaven” and “not perish but have everlasting life” John 3:3,16 indicate that entrance into the literal Millennial Kingdom as a Jew living during the earthly life of Jesus required a “born again” experience, that promised everlasting life and entrance into the Kingdom.

Overview lesson 4 Cross cultural evangelism to people with a false religion

Case Study #3: Samaritan woman

Jesus chose an inconvenient route to Galilee. It snaked through mountainous ridges that ran diagonally northwest to southeast. Samaria/ Sychar was of historic significance to Abraham and the covenant God made with him. "And Abram passed through the land until the place of Shechem until EL MOREH...He built an altar to God here. Genesis 12: 6-7 This was the place that Jacob later bought. This was where Joseph was sold by his brethren.

Unlike Nicodemus who had an intellectual, religious focus, her primary focus was emotional and relational. Nicodemus was all about being right by the Law. She was all about feeling right by human relationships.

1. She had a well that could not satisfy.

Point out the emptiness of satisfaction based on material things and human relationships. John.4:6-13

External wells can never satisfy internal spiritual thirsts. In the same way the Samaritans had an empty well of religion. Rabbinic Judaism had the right book, the right location but the wrong righteousness. "they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge." Rom.. 10:2 "they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."

Rom. 10:3

2. Jesus is the source of satisfaction John 4:14

Point out that the source of the problem is an internal spiritual thirst.

He must be received internally. He is the gift eternally. Only his living water will satisfy permanently.

3. She had a desire for material answers for an easier life. John 4:15

Point out that the gospel will not make their life easier but will give their soul constant refreshment.

4. Jesus' solution not only satisfies the relational thirst but changes the spiritual thirst. John 4:29,39-41

5. She had a companion with no companionship. John 4:16-18

Jews relate to a mighty powerful God of the universe with no close intimacy. Moses said at Sinai – "Stay back" The people demanded that Moses draw near to God and get the message for them because they feared and trembled at His awesome demonstration of power.

6. Jesus is the companion that never forsakes you. John 4:25-26

Neither Jewish people nor any people have no access to God without a sacrifice.

This is the first place in the N.T where Jesus declares Himself as the Messiah.

7. She had a religion with an address but no access. John 4:20-23 Sinners love to use religious affiliation or background as a cloak for their sin.

8. Jesus gave her atonement from sin and spiritual access to individual spiritual intimacy. John 4:24

There are irreligious people but no irredeemable people. He is the Messiah, The Christ, Jesus The Son of God who must be received internally to know Him eternally.

Practical witnessing keys from Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan Woman

Quasi-religious sinners must be moved from dependence on relational and material satisfaction to a spiritual relationship. Jesus is the only One who can remove their load of sin, refresh their soul with his love and replace their material focus with an eternal purpose.

- Inconvenient detours are often to direct your path to a person He has prepared.
- Intentional visits to needy, thirsty, sin sick people are a "must" with Jesus.

- There are no irrelevant or irreconcilable people -the Jew , the Muslim, the Jehovah's witness, the Mormon etc...
- See people who are tired of trying to fill their void with people or things only to be emptier than before and offer them His promise of living water.
- See people who are tired of playing their religious association card instead of having a real relationship with God and move them from religion , rituals and rules to a relationship with God.
- Introduce people to the One knows every sin they have done and go out of your way to tell them He loves them and will give them a new life internally and eternally.
- Present that He is the prophesied Messiah, The resurrected Christ, The Son of God, Jesus the Savior from sin.

Never discount the influence of a newly saved sinner on their peers. She brought the whole town to Jesus.
John 4:39-42 This response sowed the seed for a great revival here under the Apostle Philip. Acts 8:5-12

“Say not ye there are yet four months and then cometh harvest? Behold I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields! They are white already to harvest.” John 4:36

Nicodemus had a religious focus of righteousness by Law. Her primary focus was worth, by relationships and cultural association of religion. The goal is to move them from the futility of temporal relational or material satisfaction to a true spiritual relationship. Jesus is the only One who can remove their load of sin, refresh their soul with his love and replace their material, relational focus with His eternal purpose.

The Evangelism Model of Jesus and the Jewish Apostles

The Rich Young Ruler Matthew 19

Lesson 5 - Witnessing to a moralist - a rich, self-sufficient, "do gooder"

Case Study 5 The Rich Young Ruler Mat. 19:16-26

- 1. Determine who they think Jesus is.** Is He a good Master (Rabbi) or God?
Ruler - "Good Master" Jesus - "Why callest thou me good? *there is none good but one, that is, God*" Mat. 19:16,17
- 2. Listen for clues as to the basis of their self-righteousness.** "what good thing shall I do"
- 3. Find out how they think that they can get to heaven.** "that I may have (inherit) eternal life?"
- 4. Scripturally define that righteousness is not to sin less, but to be sinless.** Mat. 19:17 "if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments." Although scripture is clear that this is not how to get to heaven why would Jesus say this in a way that people can infer that? **It is more effective to ask questions that reveal the flaw in their assumption rather than rebuke them outright.** He dealt first with the scriptural truth of the universal sinfulness of mankind. "There is none good but God." David wrote, "The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, *and seek God.*" Ps. 14:2 & Ps. 53:2,3 "There is none that doeth good, no, not one." Ps. 14:3, Rom. 3:10 Isaiah said "our righteousnesses are as filthy rags" Isa. 64:6
- 5. Expose the futility of selective obedience to commandments.** Jesus listed the six of the commandments that deal with human relationships. He summarized the last one on coveting, with the "Golden Rule" Ex. 20:17 "He saith unto him, Which (commandments)?" Mat. 19:18,19 The first four are vertical toward God. Sabbath keeping can be observed but the next three are not so easily observed as they are internal, subjective. These six can be judged by observation. So that's what we give priority to, righteousness that can be seen and measured.
- 6. Understand the blindness of self-righteousness and the false underlying belief that good can outweigh sin.**
Mat. 19:20 "All these things have I kept from my youth up. What lack I yet?"
Eccl. 7:20 "*there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.*"
Mat. 19:25,26 "When his disciples heard *it*, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?"
This usually is the point at which the Lord alone, from the Word, by the Spirit, has to reveal it to them. Reading the Gospel of John or Epistle of Romans should be suggested. Don't argue. Thank them for the great discussion. Let them know you are open to talk again.
Ps. 19:7 "The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul" Heb. 4:12 "For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Gal.3:24
"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."
- 7. In this case the young man came to Him and did ask. Jesus' outlandish demand revealed that he was covetous.** Mat. 19:21 "Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect" "perfect" *tel'-i-os* – means complete in moral character ie: "You asked what you lack. You are to be so righteous you are not lacking anything. Jesus tested the last commandment by asking him to could cut all ties to covetousness of material wealth. **He failed the test because his possessions, and God not possessing his heart.**

Warren Buffet illustrated this pride and ignorance when he made a statement after giving most of his wealth to the Bill Gates Charitable Foundation. He said, There is more than one way to get to heaven, but this is a great way. Though he did more than the young ruler, he still didn't give it all.

Jesus said to the Rich Young Ruler

Mat. 19:21,22 "go *and* sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come *and* follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions."

Unlike religiosity, true heart righteousness is not how many bad things we don't do, or how many good things we do. It can only be imputed by God received through Faith like with Abraham.

Even if he kept the 10 commandments including the last one about not coveting anything of his neighbor, in his mind he lacked nothing. He asked is there anything else. Jesus changed the emphasis from commission of sin to the omission of commandments; from the letter of the Law to the spirit of the law. Unlike religiosity, true heart righteousness is not manifested by how many bad things we don't do, but it is measured by what we do.

Mat. 19:23 "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Mat. 19:24 "And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

8. Trust the power of the Word and the Spirit to save them. It saved Saul the "chief of sinners".

Mat. 19:26 "But Jesus beheld *them*, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."

Isa 55:11 "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it."

Keys to witnessing to a person with religious background Case Study - King Agrippa

- **Compliment their spiritual interest.** Act 26:3 "*I know thee to be expert in all customs*"
- **Ask for their permission to share your story.** "*wherefore I beseech thee to hear me patiently.*"
- **Share your personal religious background** Act 26:4 "*My manner of life from my youth*"
- **Tell of your Conversion** Acts 26:12-18
- **Share the purpose and benefit of Salvation by faith – forgiveness and sanctification**
Act 26:18 "*that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.*"
- **Introduce the key issue of eternal life and proof of Jesus' deity.**
Act 26:6 "*And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers*"
- **Preclude the main objection for the rejection of Jesus.** Acts 26:8-17
Act 26:8 "*Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?*"

- **Establish the credibility of this message in messianic prophecy**

Act 26:22 “Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: 23 That Christ should suffer, *and* that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.”

- **Ask if they believe the evidence that Jesus fulfilled the O.T. prophecies.**

Act 26:27 “King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.”

- **Allow their honest opinion of what they have just heard.**

Act 26:28 “Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.”

These are two great case studies to see how the same core content of the Gospel of the Kingdom to the young Ruler and the Gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus both required repentance and faith. The first one emphasized repentance which was rejected. The second one also rejected the overwhelming evidence by Paul a former Pharisee. Success is presenting the Gospel clearly. It is God who gives the increase.

Objective: Review the common denominators in the Gospel of Jesus and the Apostles as they communicated it to both Jews and Pagans.

What is the Gospel?

- **Old Testament - Before the Cross - Gospel of the Kingdom**
- **New Testament - After the Cross - Gospel of the Death Burial and Resurrection 1 Cor. 15:1-3**
- **The majority of the four gospels up until the cross is a record of the final events of the OT time period.**
- **The “OT” time period lasted through the lifespan of John the Baptist and Jesus up to His death.**
- **The four Gospels show the Old Covenant being fulfilled by Jesus during the OT period.**

The Gospel during John and Jesus’ life

Good News - about?

- **The Kingdom**
- **The Gospel of the Kingdom was that the King was here and ready to establish His Kingdom.**
- **It was preached for just a short period of time from John the Baptist up until the leaders of Israel rejected Jesus. Matthew 3-12 (approximately 2 years by John, overlapped 1 by Jesus for 2 plus years)**

Jesus’ and His Disciples continued this same message of the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Mark 1:14,15 “Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”

Since Jesus had not died yet, what is the definition of that “Gospel”?

Luke 8:1 “And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God.”

So how were people saved in the OT?

Case Study - Abraham Saved By Faith “he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness. Gen. 15:6 “What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.” Rom. 3:1,3

The Gospel of the...

- **O T - Before the Cross - Gospel Of the Kingdom.**
- **N T - After the Cross – Gospel of the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus. 1 Cor. 15:1-3**
- **The majority of the four Gospels up until the cross is a record of the final events of the OT time period.**
- **Case Studies of the Gospel**
- **Abraham Before the Law was saved by faith**

- Nicodemus Religious self righteous
- Woman at the well Immoral, secular half Jew was under the law plus their false doctrine. She was saved by faith
- Rich Young Ruler Moralist
- King Agrippa Religious Nobility

Lesson 6 The Fear of WITNESSING “Arise and go. I have prepared them.” Acts10:20

Illustration of a reason many fear witnessing in some political regions

IN 2018-19 OUR NEWS HEADLINES WERE FILLED WITH THE HISTORIC MEETING OF PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP WITH N. KOREA’S KIM JONG UN – A KNOWN DESPOT WHO PERSECUTES CHRISTIANS.

Since the 1950’s the number of Christians in North Korea has diminished when—under the leadership of Kim Il-Sung—70,000 Christians were killed, sent to labor camps or banished to remote areas. “Open Doors” partners in North Korea estimate that a small number of these banished Christians are still alive, along with about 50,000 of their descendants, and that another **50,000 believers are held in prison and hard labor camps, re-education camps and detention centers.**

In the communist country, Christians are seen as the enemy. “Christianity is regarded as a political crime and it is punished like one,” says John Choi, a North Korean refugee and survivor of a prison camp, arrested and jailed when he was 15. According to the recent War Committee report, inside the camps, prisoners are often “tortured and killed on account of their religious affiliation, with officials instructed ‘to wipe out the seed of [Christian] reactionaries.’” In one especially heinous account, guards killed a prisoner’s newborn baby by feeding it to the guard dogs.

“Many Christians do not survive,” Choi told Open Doors’ Sarah Cunningham. “They are tortured and used to test biological and chemical weapons—a VX gas like the kind used to assassinate Kim Jong-un’s half-brother. “Christian women who become pregnant are especially targeted for this type of torture. It’s because they possess or read the Bible that they perish in this severe way,” he said. Under Kim’s rule, “Christians literally have to choose between life and death.”

Describing her detention, a North Korean believer/prison camp survivor echoes Choi’s observations and experience. She was forced to strip down for a cavity search, then placed in solitary confinement, a room just large enough for a single person to lie down, because of her faith. Pregnant prisoners were taken away for abortions, she said. After violent interrogations, prisoners in labor camps continue to face physical and emotional torment. They work 12-hour shifts, receive a few hundred grams of food a day, and are not permitted to bathe themselves. www.opendoorsusa.org

What makes western people so hesitate to share their faith? Here are some of the fears.

- "I am afraid I might do more harm than good." - "I don't know what to say."
- "I may not be able to give snappy answers to tricky questions." - "I may seem bigoted."
- "I may invade someone's privacy." - "I am afraid I might fail."

- "I am afraid I might be a hypocrite."

Perhaps the most common fear, however, is that of being rejected. A survey was given to those attending training sessions for the Billy Graham crusade in Detroit. One question asked, "What is your greatest hindrance to witnessing?"

9 % said they were too busy to remember to do it. 28 % felt the lack of real information to share.
12 % said their own lives were not as they should be. 51 % the fear of how the other person would react

The Gospel of Salvation – God’s part, Our Part

1. God is preparing people’s hearts.

Through Circumstances Acts 9:1-4

Through Conscience “Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another” Rom. 2:15

Through Creation

“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”

Rom 1:20,21 Ps. 19:1-3

Through Conscience

Rom 2:14,15 “For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another.”

Through Christ

“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me.” John 12:32

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.” John 3:15

Through Conviction by His Spirit. Acts 2:37

“When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart” Acts 7:54 “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.” John 6:44

2. His Part - He has the power to save them.

Through the Power of the Gospel “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” Rom 1:16

Through the Power of the Spirit Acts 9:5; 10:42-44 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Act 1:8

Through the Power of the Blood Rev. 20:28 “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony” Rev 12:11

3. Our Part – Following Jesus

Through Prayer Acts 1:14; 4:29

Through our Practice Acts 2:47

Through Preaching Acts 5:42

Through relationships with Christians

Through Personal witnessing Acts 5:42; 8:4; 8:29-37

5. Our Partnership. Acts 4

Acts 10:20 "Arise therefore and go , **doubting nothing**: I have sent them."

Mark 16:20 "And they went forth, and preached every where, **the Lord working with them**"

Mat. 4:19 "And he saith unto them, Follow me, and **I will make you fishers of men.**"

"If we are not fishing, we are not following." Mat. 28:19 **Go ye therefore**, and teach all nations...20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, **lo, I am with you** alway, *even* unto the end of the world." Someone said, "If there is ... **No Go** then there is **No Lo.**"

Trust the Power of the Gospel. "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth..."

Prioritize the mandate of the Gospel to the Jew first. "to the Jew first and also to the Greek." Romans 1:16

Rely on the Power of the Holy Spirit Acts 1:8 "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Appendix The Everlasting Covenant framework for salvation throughout all dispensations.

The Kingdom

Mark 9:1 “And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.”

The Gospel of the Kingdom was literally offered to the nation. Individuals of the nation of Israel such as Nicodemus could not enter that literal earthly kingdom poised “at the door” without repentance and faith in Jesus the King. Even though the King and kingdom was rejected and the kingdom’s literal establishment was postponed both Jews and gentiles could be born again and receive eternal life based on the “blood of the new covenant offered by Jesus” who will later as King of the Jews set up a worldwide Kingdom based in Jerusalem. It is called the everlasting covenant.

If the Kingdom of God preached by the Prophets, by John, and by Jesus and his disciples was the glad tidings of a literal earthly kingdom, then what is the coming of the kingdom of God “with power” that had to have happened in the lifespan of those disciples? Mark 9:1 Was it the Holy Spirit baptism at Pentecost? Was it John on Patmos receiving the Revelation of the coming Kingdom? Since “some” means more than just John receiving Revelation was it the Mount of Transfiguration where three of them saw Moses and Elijah and the transfiguration of Jesus? Is that the “with power” Jesus spoke of? If “with power” means Pentecost then the Kingdom that was literal that was “taken from you” Matt. 21:43 would become a spiritual kingdom in the Church. Thus the “kingdom of God is within you.” Luke 17:20,21 To Nicodemus, the words “Unless a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of Heaven” and “not perish but have everlasting life” John 3:3,16 indicate that entrance into the literal Millennial Kingdom as a Jew required a “born again” experience that gave everlasting life well before and beyond entrance into a 1000 year Kingdom existence.

The offer of the Gospel of the Kingdom was literal earthly prophesied event. It was presented by the prophets, John the Baptist, Jesus and his disciples up until it was rejected by Israel’s leaders and taken from them. It awaits restoration at a later date after all these things mentioned in Matt. 24 at which time the Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached unto all the world. The Gospel of the Kingdom was literally offered to the nation. Individuals of the nation of Israel such as Nicodemus could not enter that literal earthly kingdom poised “at the door” without repentance and faith in Jesus the King. Even though the King and kingdom was rejected and the kingdom’s literal establishment was postponed both Jews and gentiles could be born again and receive eternal life based on the “blood of the new covenant offered by Jesus” who will later as King of the Jews set up a worldwide Kingdom based in Jerusalem. It is called the everlasting covenant.

The Everlasting Covenant in scripture.

Gen. 9:16 “And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.”

Gen. 17:7 “And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.”

Gen. 17:13 “He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.”

With the descendants of Isaac

Gen. 17:19 “And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.”

Lev. 24:8 “Every sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant.”

Promised an everlasting Throne through David

2 Sam. 23:5 “Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all

things, and sure: for *this is* all my salvation, and all *my* desire, although he make *it* not to grow.”

The covenant to Abraham, Isaac was extended to Jacob and Israel through his 12 sons.

1 Chr. 16:17 “And hath confirmed the same to Jacob for a law, *and* to Israel for an everlasting covenant”

Psa. 105:10 “And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, *and* to Israel for an everlasting covenant”

Isa. 55:3 “Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, *even* the sure mercies of David.”

Isa. 61:8 “For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.”

Through the future New Covenant

Jer. 32:40 “And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.”

Ezek. 16:60 “Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant.”

Ezek. 37:26 “Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.”

It was established and made available to all through the blood of Jesus

Heb. 13:20 “Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant”

Rev 14:6 “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people”

Rev 14:7 “Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”

What is the basis upon which God saved people by faith before the blood of Christ was shed?

The means of access and temporary atonement was sacrificial blood but the faith for salvation was in God’s promise.

“The Everlasting Covenant” (excluding Noah is mentioned 13 times. 11 in OT, 1 in Hebrews and 1 in Revelation)

▪ **To Abraham and his descendants Based on Faith, indicated by circumcision**

Gen. 17:7 “And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.”

▪ **To the descendants of Isaac not Ishmael**

Gen. 17:19 “And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.”

▪ **To Jacob and Israel through his 12 sons.**

1 Chr. 16:17 “And hath confirmed the same to Jacob for a law, *and* to Israel for an everlasting covenant”

▪ **To David an everlasting Throne**

2 Sam. 23:5 “he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for *this is* all my salvation, and all *my* desire, although he make *it* not to grow.” Isa. 55:3 “Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, *even* the sure mercies of David.”

▪ **To Israel through the New Covenant**

- **Spiritually**

Jer. 32:40 “And I will make an **everlasting covenant** with them, that I will not turn away from them”

- **Nationally**

Ezek. 37:26 “I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an **everlasting covenant** with them”

Jer. 31:31 “I will make a **new covenant with the house of Israel**, and with the house of Judah”

Although the New Covenant aspect of the everlasting covenant, is yet to be accepted by Israel and inaugurated by Jesus, He ratified it and made salvation available to all through faith in His blood.

- **To all**

Heb. 13:20,21 “Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the **everlasting covenant**, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will.”

Salvation under the everlasting Covenant will still continue after the Rapture when the dispensation of the Church Age is over. Once the two Heavenly witnesses in Jerusalem die and the evangelistic campaign of the 144,000 witnesses is complete, the Everlasting Gospel will be heralded from the skies by an angel to all mankind. Rev 14:6 “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having **the everlasting gospel** to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.”

Recommended Reading

Things To Come, Dwight J. Pentecost, Zondervan

The Greatness of The Kingdom, Alva J. McClain, BMH Books, Moody Press

The Interpretation of Prophecy, Paul Lee Tan Assurance Publishers

He Will Reign Forever, Michael J. Vlach, Lampion Press

There Really Is a difference, Renald E. Showers, The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry

The Law Then and Now, And What About Grace? John B. Metzger, Grace Acres Press