

Series: GAMEPLAN

Date: September 30, 2015

Text: Mark 1:14-15

Gospel: Our Response To Jesus (make title screen)

Introduction

Different Reactions to Roller Coasters

Show picture 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Need

The Gospel demands a response.

Turn from sin to Him.

What are we supposed to do? How are we supposed to live?

Bible

The question then that begs for an answer is, “What is the best way to teach students to repent?” I believe the best way is by continually teaching them the Gospel. Repentance is very difficult when we’re commanded to do it, but repentance can be a natural response when we are growing in the Gospel. Read Mark 1:14-15,

Mark 1:14-15 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

After Jesus had been baptized and tempted in the wilderness, His public ministry began with the message to “repent and believe in the gospel.” Notice this was not a stand alone command. This teaching wasn’t unattached to good news. Jesus wasn’t legalistically laying down the law of repentance, instead He was preaching the Gospel and telling them how to respond. Jesus came in preaching His life, His death, and His resurrection.

He was proclaiming God's love, God's grace, and God's glory. Jesus never preached the Gospel without proclaiming the proper response of repentance and belief.

Since everything in the Scriptures are grounded in and point us to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, then also everything calls for our repentance and faith. The purpose of Jesus' death wasn't just to show us His example of sacrificial love, but the purpose was empower us to repent of sin and follow Him. The purpose of Jesus' resurrection wasn't just to show that sin can't hold Him down, but the purpose was to empower us to follow Him in faith. Let's break repentance and faith down.

Repentance.

When we preach clear look at the cross, Jesus will naturally call us to repent from sin. Jesus did not just die for our sin, He also suffered for our sin. We have to make sure our students understand the reason Jesus suffered and died is because of our sin.

Jesus was ridiculed by others because of our sin. Jesus was beaten because of our sin. Jesus was whipped because of our sin. Jesus was bloodied with the crown of thorns because of our sin. Jesus was nailed to the cross because of our sin. Jesus gasped for air because of our sin. Jesus was speared in the side because of our sin. Jesus died because of our sin.

When we have a clear look at the violent suffering and death Jesus went through for our sin, we see the hatred of God for sin. We see how our sin is the enemy of God. We see how our sin is completely contrary to God's commands. We see God's provision for our sin. We see Jesus' volunteering as our substitute for the death of our sin. We see Jesus' own blood covering our sin. We see God's grace in not punishing us for our sin.

Having this clear look at the cross encourages and empowers us to repent of our sin. Why would we want to live in it? Why would we want to choose it? Why would we want to continue in it? Since we will always struggle with giving into sin's temptation, we need relentless reminders of Gospel-motivated repentance from sin. **Our response to Jesus' death is repentance.**

Faith.

When we preach a real look at the resurrection, Jesus will naturally call us to faithfully follow Him. Three days after Jesus was buried, His heart started beating, His lungs filled with air, and His body came back to life. Jesus is the only one who has bodily resurrected from the dead to live eternally.

Jesus' resurrection proves that God's power is greater than any sin. Jesus' resurrection proves that God was satisfied with Jesus' death for sin. Jesus' resurrection proves that there is hope for eternal life after death. Jesus' resurrection proves that He is alive. Jesus' resurrection proves that we can have a real relationship with Him. Jesus' resurrection proves that He has gone through death for us so that He can show us the way to real life.

When we preach a real look at the resurrection, Jesus will naturally call us to faithfully follow Him. A true belief in the resurrection will respond in daily faith. The point of the resurrection is not to believe in Jesus' resurrection, but it is to follow the resurrected Jesus! Because of the resurrection, Jesus calls us have faith in Him, to believe on Him, to trust Him, and to follow Him on a daily basis. His resurrection gives us the opportunity to have a real relationship with Him as He speaks to us and leads us. Whatever we preach or teach, we must make sure to remind students that they can live it based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. **Our response to Jesus' resurrection is faith.**

Gospel

Every single week student pastors must be preaching the Gospel. We don't ONLY preach the Gospel weekly, but we ALWAYS preach the Gospel weekly. Here are four reasons why I preach the Gospel every week.

1. **For the unsaved to get saved.** Every week may be the only week a student has the opportunity to hear the Gospel. So, every single week I preach the Gospel in case someone who came hasn't heard it yet.

2. **For the saved to live saved.** As we've already talked about in this chapter, the Gospel is not only for the unsaved, but it is also for the saved. The Gospel is God's relentless reminder on how we should live in response to what Jesus did for us. I preach the Gospel every single week to remind the saved to live a life of repentance and faith.
3. **For the saved to bring the unsaved.** Who you preach to will decide who will come. If we preach the Gospel every single week, our students will know to bring unsaved friends so that they can hear and be saved.
4. For the saved to share with the unsaved. I don't think we need evangelism classes. Instead, we should share the Gospel every single week and give the unsaved an opportunity to get saved. When we do that through our preaching and teaching weekly, our students will repetitively hear the Gospel shared for salvation!
5. **For the saved to read their Bibles right.** When we preach the Gospel every single week from every single text we preach, we are training them to naturally see the Gospel as the point of every passage.

Every weekly student ministry gathering is not only an evangelistic outreach, but there should always be evangelism! Our calling by our Chief Shepherd is to share the Gospel for the unsaved to get saved and for the saved to live saved. Salvation and sanctification cannot happen without repentance and faith. Don't be guilty of preaching or teaching the person of Jesus and the work of Jesus without communicating how to respond to Jesus. The Gospel is ultimately a call to look to Jesus and what He's done in order to turn from sin and to Him.

Story

Here's an illustration you can use with students so that they can experience repentance. After preaching your passage and pointing it to the Gospel, ask your students to stand and face the wall to their left. Tell them that wall represents sin. When we're born, we're naturally sinners. Every one of us are facing and walking toward sin. Sin is our natural lifestyle.

Then ask all of your students to turn around and face the wall on their right. That wall represents Jesus. Because we are born sinners, God sent Jesus

to die for our sin so that we could turn from our sin to Him. God gives us all the opportunity to make the 180 degree about-face to give our lives to Him.

Ask them all to face the wall to their left again. Because this wall represents sin, imagine this wall with everything that is wrong with the world. Hate, murder, greed, war, lying, stealing, cheating, etc. This wall also represents what's been done to us. People have sinned against us by hurting us, bringing pain into our lives, lying to us, etc. Lastly, this wall represents all that we have done to crucify Jesus on the cross. Everything we've ever thought wrong, ever said wrong, and ever done wrong. Also everything we should have thought, said, and done that we didn't. The sin wall holds us back, holds us down, and keeps us from the life God created us for.

Ask them one last time to face the wall to their right. Remember this wall represents Jesus. On this wall picture Jesus' death for your sin and Jesus' resurrection which empowers you to live for Him. This wall represents where you find love, significance, and acceptance. This is where you understand life, your purpose, and how you should live. This wall also represents what happens after you die, eternal life, and having hope forever.

Notice that we can't turn from the sin wall without turning to the Jesus wall. There's no in-between. Sure, you can twist your body so that your feet face one and your face is pointed to another. That would represent your life perfectly: twisted. You cannot truly face both directions nor can you walk in both directions. Your life direction has to be either one or the other. Sit everyone down and ask, "If you've never given your life to Jesus, I beg you tonight to turn from your sin and give your life to Him. If you have given your life to Jesus, I beg you to not walk toward sin, but walk toward Him."

Application

How do we turn from sin to Jesus? We turn from sin by looking to Jesus. In faith, looking to Jesus and believing that living for His is far better than any sin we could live in. In prayer, we ask Jesus to forgive us of our sin because of His death for it. We confess our sins to Him and ask for His full forgiveness. In His Word daily, we see that Jesus relentlessly calls us to repent to Him.

If students are not yet a Christian, we ask them to give their life to Jesus. If students are already a Christian, we ask them to practice relentless forgiveness. We know the only way this is possible in the life of our students is by giving them a clear look at the Gospel on at least a weekly basis.