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WHICH GOSPEL ARE YOU PREACHING?

*And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and **preaching the gospel of the kingdom**, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.*

And His fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto Him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and He healed them. (Matt 4:23-24)

Whenever and wherever Jesus preached the gospel of the Kingdom of God, people were healed and delivered. They saw the power of God at work.

And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day He entered into the synagogue, and taught.

And they were astonished at His doctrine: for He taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,

Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with Thee, Thou Jesus of Nazareth? art Thou come to destroy us? I know Thee who Thou art, the Holy One of God.

And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.

And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.

And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth He even the unclean spirits, and they do obey Him.

And immediately His fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee. (Mark 1:21-28)

The Kingdom of God is a Kingdom of power and authority. When Jesus exercised this authority, it was so obvious that the people were amazed. In this instance, He rebuked an unclean spirit that had manifested while He was teaching. It convulsed the man, cried out with a loud voice and left.

Jesus preached only one gospel – the gospel of the Kingdom of God. When He handed it down to His disciples and then to His church, what did He expect them to do?

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. (Matt 10:8)

Then He called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

And He sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. (Luke 9:1-2)

And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. (Luke 10:9)

And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In My name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly

thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. (Mark 16:15-18)

What gospel are we preaching today? Do we see God's Kingdom power being manifested, confirming the preaching with signs and wonders? Or is the preaching in vain, something done only to complete the weekly church service?

Why is it that Jesus and the early church had great results whenever they preached? Because they preached the right message, the gospel of the Kingdom of God. In order for us to be effective, we too must preach the right message. **When we preach the Kingdom of God, we will see results.** When we do not preach the Kingdom of God, we will not see results. **Any message other than the gospel of the Kingdom of God will be void of the power of God.**

No wonder Jude urged us: "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, **it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints**" (Jude 3).

The gospel that Jesus Christ and the early church preached was the gospel of the Kingdom of God. It is the same and only message we are supposed to preach today, and until the end comes.

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. (Matt 24:14)

Actually, we are warned against preaching any other gospel.

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach

any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. (Gal 1:8-9)

Can it be that so many people in church today are accursed because so many are not preaching the gospel of the Kingdom that Jesus handed down to us?

There is a great difference between man's gospel and God's gospel. **Man's gospel comes in words only but God's gospel brings down principalities and powers, lifts the veil from blinded minds and sets man free.**

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost.

In whom the god of this world bath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. (2 Cor 4:3-4)

Today, many attend home fellowships, Bible studies and prayer meetings. Every Sunday, 52 Sundays a year, they listen to one or more sermons. After so many messages week after week, they should be very involved in the Kingdom of God, but they are not. They leave the service wondering what the sermon was all about.

Jesus calls us to come, be trained by the Spirit, then go. The woman in Samaria became a powerful witness after a brief encounter with Jesus (John 4).

God is not interested in well-prepared sermons and good teaching that tickle the minds but do not impact lives. The preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom must be by the power of the Holy Spirit. Only then can the hearts of men be stirred and transformed.

Are the people to continue listening to the preaching, then go out and live in the same way they have done all these years when Jesus is coming again so soon?

The early church met every day (Acts 2:46-47) and great signs and wonders accompanied the preaching of the word (Acts

5:12). Today, we have many spectators in the church who need a lot of activities to keep them coming. Even the worship can become like entertainment when there must be a good band and some good singers performing in a certain, latest style. Then the rest of the people are just going to see how good this Christian 'show' is when they should be going to minister to the Lord.

When we learn to minister to the Lord, we will hear, understand and live the word of God. But do we have time to minister to the Lord when the church meetings are tailored to suit the people? Is there a concern that if the service is too long, the people will get restless and not want to come?

We forget that the church worship meeting is for God, not for the people. We are in church because of God. **The church must be Christ-centred and not people-centred.**

For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. (Gal 1:10)

As Paul knew, **we are definitely to please God and not man because we are called of the Lord and not of man.** When we take our focus in ministry off the Lord and the Kingdom of God, we will go wrong. That is why we do not see power and authority in the church today.

From beginning to end, it must always be the message of the Kingdom of God. **The self-pleasing life must be thrown out and only Christ exalted in our midst.** When we focus on God, we will see His power at work. The Kingdom of God will overthrow the kingdom of darkness.

Revival will only come when we look only to God. He will carry us through. All the nonsense about having to keep the congregation happy must stop in order for revival to break out. **The people must be taught to honour and worship God.** If they choose to remain unhappy, we have to make a choice

whether to please them or please God.

You can have thousands in a service but if God is not there, it is still empty and useless, isn't it? Even if it is only God and you alone, some miracles can take place. Even if you are thrown into the desert or into the valley of dry bones, the miracles will take place because of God.

The preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom must come with great power. Paul said,

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. (1 Cor 2:4-5)

If we want to see the power of God at work and people genuinely saved, we have to re-examine our message. Which gospel are we preaching? The right gospel will bring the right results, the demonstration of the power of the Kingdom and the salvation of souls.

Because the gospel of the Kingdom has been watered down so much, we are seeing watered-down Christians. But this shall no more be so. Certainly, God is bringing His Kingdom into the hearts of men and women.

Whenever we preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God, we see miracles. There are great signs and wonders. There is healing and deliverance. It is unusual if we do not see miracles because we serve a miracle-working God.