**Opening Scripture**

*Isaiah 59:14-21 NLT*

*Our courts oppose the righteous, and justice is nowhere to be found. Truth stumbles in the streets, and honesty has been outlawed. [15] Yes, truth is gone, and anyone who renounces evil is attacked. The LORD looked and was displeased to find there was no justice. [16] He was amazed to see that no one intervened to help the oppressed. So he himself stepped in to save them with his strong arm, and his justice sustained him. [17] He put on righteousness as his body armor and placed the helmet of salvation on his head. He clothed himself with a robe of vengeance and wrapped himself in a cloak of divine passion. [18] He will repay his enemies for their evil deeds. His fury will fall on his foes. He will pay them back even to the ends of the earth. [19] In the west, people will respect the name of the LORD; in the east, they will glorify him. For he will come like a raging flood tide driven by the breath of the LORD. [20] “The Redeemer will come to Jerusalem to buy back those in Israel who have turned from their sins,” says the LORD. [21] “And this is my covenant with them,” says the LORD. “My Spirit will not leave them, and neither will these words I have given you. They will be on your lips and on the lips of your children and your children’s children forever. I, the LORD, have spoken!*

**The Overcoming Power of The Gospel**

Last week we identified that the antidote to fear was the perfect love of God and we will continue to explore God’s answer to the adversity that comes against us. The question I want to pose to begin is: How does fear spread? It is spread through words and images. What is the primary source of information in our world today? It’s what we refer to as **the News (highlight this)**. Years ago if you wanted information about what was going on in the world you had a handful of choices ABC, NBC, CBS, Daily Press or the radio. Today we are saturated with news from several different avenues like: the internet on our computers, cell phones, tablets and even our watches, in addition to the ole staples like television and radio. This in and of itself is not a problem, but the problem is that the vast majority of news we hear is bad news.

However, God has an answer to the boatload of bad news that is in our world. That answer is: The Gospel of Jesus Christ. The word Gospel means good news, it specifically means: almost too good to be true news. My Goal tonight is to introduce to some and remind others of the Overcoming Power of the Gospel or Good News.

*Romans 5:15-21 NLT*

*[15] But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ. [16] And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. [17] For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ. [18] Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. [19] Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous. [20] God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. [21] So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Point One: The Gospel Delivers You From The Power of Sin**

***Romans 5:17 AMPC***

***[17] For if because of one man's trespass (lapse, offense) death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive [God's] overflowing grace (unmerited favor) and the free gift of righteousness [putting them into right standing with Himself] reign as kings in life through the one Man Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).***

(Expound on what it means to be forgiven of sin & to be made right with God. Illustration of the debtor who is being brought before the judge to pay a trillion dollar debt-pleading for mercy someone comes in to announce payment of the debt and all the debtor is required to do is confess his guilty and plea the blood)

(Contrast the difference between a slave and a King-linking this with Rom. 5:17 AMPC)

(Give simple explanation of Justification: Just-as-if-I-had-never-sinned)

**Point Two: The Gospel Offers You The Unconditional Love Of God**

*Luke 15:11-24 NLT*

*To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons. [12] The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. [13] “A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. [14] About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. [15] He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. [16] The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.*

*[17] “When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! [18] I will go home to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, [19] and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.”’ [20] “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. [21] His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. ’ [22] “But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. [23] And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, [24] for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.*

(Expound on the father’s response to the son that life; emphasizing the reality that all of mankind either was in time past or are currently in the position of the Prodigal son)

*Jeremiah 3:14 NKJV*

*“Return, O backsliding children,” says the LORD; “for I am married to you. I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion.*

God says He is married to the backslider, so regardless of what voices you my be hearing in your head...if you are still breathing it is not too late for you to turn back to God and embrace the gift of righteousness that has been offered to you and embrace the gift of the Holy Spirit whom has been sent to comfort, counsel, and empower you.

**Point Three: The Gospel Empowers You To Receive God’s Goodness**

***Matthew 11:28-30 NLT***

***[28] Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."***

(God’s Goodness provides rest from laboring to be made right with God. Jesus is our Justification before God. Jesus’ presence in our lives is the fulfillment of our need for validation and acceptance).

***2 Corinthians 8:9 NASBS***

***[9] For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.***

(God has not only made a provision for our spiritual and emotional needs. He has also provided for material needs as well, because that is the type of Father He is. In spite of the abuses that have been perpetrated by the so-called prosperity Gospel, it is misunderstanding of God’s character to believe that He is not considered with your financial/material well-being).

***Matthew 6:24-34 NLT***

***[24] "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money. [25] "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life-whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? [26] Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? [27] Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? [28] "And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, [29] yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. [30] And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith? [31] "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' [32] These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. [33] Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. [34] "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.***

***1 Peter 2:24 NLT***

***[24] He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.***

*(God’s desire is for us is healing in all of forms physically, emotionally, and spiritually. The Good News is that Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection has made it all available.*

***Romans 8:32 AMP***

***He who did not spare [even] His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?***

God’s goodness is not limited, we don’t have to choose between physical or material blessing. Jesus has made it so that we can experience His goodness in this life and the life that is to come.

Is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above what we can ask or think...

**Point Four: The Gospel Empowers You T0 Love Unconditionally**

*Ephesians 5:1-2 NLT*

*Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. [2] Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.*

(Expound on this to illustrate that it is only through a fresh revelation of God’s love that we can be empowered to love even in those hard moments when we have been betrayed, attacked, or in other ways victimized).

Summary & Alter Call