



# THE MESSAGE OF JESUS

## **On the Gospel**

04.13.2025

Mark 1:14b-15

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## **Mark 1:14b-15**

Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

*Euangelion: The message or proclamation of a change in ruler or leader, or after a battle, the news of an imperial power’s victory over a people group.*

“[At the time of Jesus] proclamations would...announce a change of ruler...the continuation of the system...When Jesus was in his late teens, and the old emperor Augustus finally died after his four decades as master of the Western world, we can imagine Jesus...being in the market square when the herald came with the proclamation. ‘Good news—Tiberius Caesar is emperor!’ An announcement like this isn’t simply a proclamation. It’s the start of a campaign. When a regime is already in power and is simply transferring that power to the next person in line, you can just

announce it's happening. But if you make that announcement while someone else appears to be in charge, you are saying, in effect, 'the campaign starts here.'"

- N.T. Wright, Simply Jesus



"All are heirs to the same revolution: a revolution that has, as its molten heart, the image of god dead on a cross. I realised how important...someone being tortured on the cross illustrated...the possibility that power might be vanquished by powerlessness, and that the weak might vanquish the strong, and that death and hope might be found in the teeth of life in despair."

- Tom Holland

Jesus' redefinition: The Gospel is the good news that Jesus is Lord and King through which God's manifest presence and reign has returned to Israel in victory over evil to restore human beings through forgiveness of sins, reconciling the world through new creation.

### **Judges 5:10-11**

You who ride on white donkeys,  
sitting on your saddle blankets,

and you who walk along the road,  
consider the voice of the singers at the watering places.  
They recite the victories of the Lord,  
the victories of his villagers in Israel.

For the Jews: The 'white donkeys' are symbols of authority, noble status, and peaceful leadership - these riders are judges, not soldiers.

For the Romans: Riding on the donkey is a foolish, weak, and demeaning mode of transport for a King compared to the Roman Emperor who entered in on a mighty war horse.

“The Gospel is the royal announcement that Jesus is Lord. It’s the declaration that through Jesus, God has become king over the world in a new way.”

- N.T. Wright

The Gospel Prefigured

Augustine: “The New Testament lies hidden in the Old, and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New.”



### **Judges 5:24-27**

The wife of Heber the Kenite,  
most blessed of tent-dwelling women.  
He asked for water, and she gave him milk;  
in a bowl fit for nobles she brought him curdled milk.  
Her hand reached for the tent peg,  
her right hand for the workman's hammer.  
She struck Sisera, she crushed his head,  
she shattered and pierced his temple.  
At her feet he sank, he fell; there he lay.  
At her feet he sank, he fell;  
where he sank, there he fell—dead.

The Gospel Prophesied

### **Isaiah 22:20-25**

“In that day I will summon my servant, Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I will clothe him with your robe and fasten your sash around him and hand your authority over to him. He will be a father to those who live in Jerusalem and to the people of Judah. I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I will drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a seat of honor for the house of his father. In that day,” declares the Lord Almighty, “the peg driven into the firm place will give way; it will be sheared off and will fall, and the load hanging on it will be cut down.” The Lord has spoken.

### **Mark 1:14b-15**

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.”

“The Gospel is not a doctrine of the tongue, but of life. It cannot be grasped by reason and memory alone, but it is fully understood when it possesses the whole soul.”

- John Calvin



## **Romans 1:16 [ESV]**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

## **2 Corinthians 5:17 [KJ21]**

Therefore if any [person] be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things have become new.

### Summary of the Gospel

1. Jesus is an upside-down King who disturbs the falsely religious and upends imperial domination and exclusion.
2. Jesus has defeated sin, death, and Satan through his life, cross, and resurrection.
3. Salvation, new life, and reconciliation with God are available to all who believe.

“The gospel is nothing less than laughter and joy.”

- Martin Luther