

11.29.15 Primer

True and Better Israel

The Point:

Jesus died as a sacrifice for sin and rose again, conquering death, so that the whole world might find the abundance of joy in knowing God.

Quote:

“Mission lies at the very heart of all God’s historical action in the Bible.” - Christopher J.H. Wright

Read John 20:19-23

[19] On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” [20] When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. [21] Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” [22] And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. [23] If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.” (John 20:19-23 ESV)

From the ESV Gospel Transformation Study Bible:

Jesus’ encounter with the fearful, guilt-ridden disciples is a model of what should happen every time we gather together in Jesus’ name to worship God. Jesus comes into our midst and speaks to us by his Word, and then applies the gospel of peace to our souls and breathes his Spirit upon us, commissioning us to go forth as servants of the gospel.

The authority Jesus gave the apostles to pronounce the forgiveness of sins is extended through the church by the preaching of the gospel. Where can we go, with certainty, for the assurance of pardon? Not to the works of our hands, nor to the idols of our hearts. Only by believing the gospel of God’s grace can we expect to hear Jesus say to us, “Peace be with you.”

Questions for Discussion:

1. What was your big takeaway from Sunday’s sermon?
2. What was hard for you to understand or just to accept? Maybe someone from your group can help clear things up.

3. What was lost in the Garden of Eden?
4. Why did God choose Israel?
5. How was Israel sent?
6. How did Israel fail?
7. How did Jesus succeed where Israel failed?
8. Following his resurrection, in John 20:21, Jesus says, "*Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.*" What do you think he means?
 - a. How was Jesus sent? Make a list of everything that you can think of.
 - b. What does it look like for us to be sent?
 - c. Why do we need the reassurance of God's peaceful presence as we wrestle with the idea of being sent?
9. What is significant about Jesus empowering his followers with the Holy Spirit and equipping them with the gospel (e.g. forgiving of sins)?
10. If Sunday's sermon is biblical, and the passage from John is truth, what do you need to do to make this a reality in your life?