

The Power to Change the World Part 2

The Power of the Gospel

Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

How can we be the light of the world?

We can light the world by exercising the power of the Gospel.

Romans 1:14-16 (NLT)

14 For I have a great sense of obligation to people in our culture and to people in other cultures, to the educated and uneducated alike.
15 So I am eager to come to you in Rome, too, to preach God's Good News. 16 For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—Jews first and also Gentiles.

1. The Gospel is powerful because it is true.

John 14:6 (NLT)

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

1. The Gospel is powerful because it is true.

John 10:27-31 (NIV)

27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all ; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one." 31 Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him,

1. The Gospel is powerful because it is true.

Matt 26:63b-65 (NIV)

The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." 64 "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." 65 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy.

1. The Gospel is powerful because it is true.

The premise is that Jesus claimed to be God.

One of the following must therefore be true.

1. *Lunatic*: Jesus was not God, but he mistakenly believed that he was.

2. *Liar*: Jesus was not God, and he knew it, but he said so anyway.

3. *Lord*: Jesus is God.

From these premises it follows logically that, if Jesus is not God, He is neither great nor moral.

2. The Gospel is powerful because it is for everyone.

Romans 1:16 (NIV)

16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

2. The Gospel is powerful because it is for everyone.

Galatians 3:28-29 (NIV)

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

3. The Gospel is powerful because it is personal.

2 Peter 3:8-9 (NLT)

9 The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise to return, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to perish, so he is giving more time for everyone to repent.

3. The Gospel is powerful because it is personal.

Luke 19:2-6 (NIV)

2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. 5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

3. The Gospel is powerful because it is personal.

John 15:15 (NIV)

15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.