

The message

It is not our message, rather it is the message of Jesus Christ to his church, to the leaders in his church, to his prodigal sons and daughters and to those who feel the tag of God on their hearts.

This is the message he asks us to tell you.

The Lord expects his prophets [his people, his church] to speak the truth including the state of sin, without fear lest men think they are sinless and God's wrath comes upon them and us. We must preach that a perfectly just God will punish sin - but he has also provided an escape, the son of man Jesus! Turn to him and you will escape sin.

You cannot escape unless you trust in Jesus.

*"Your prophets had nothing to tell you but lies; their preaching deceived you by never exposing your sin. They made you think you did not need to repent."*ⁱ

If we preach, and we are Gods servants, then we must also preach God's core message which was the centre of his ministry and it was this:

*"From that time Jesus began to preach his message: "Turn away from your sins, because the Kingdom of heaven is near!"*ⁱⁱ

And what does this message mean for you and me today?

This is our interpretation of his message:

1. Repent.
2. Purify yourselves.
3. The kingdom of God is indeed near.
4. "But purify myself from what?" You ask. From sin.
5. God is Holy and you cannot come to his presence unless you are holy.
6. Sin makes you unable to enter his presence. "What is sin?" You ask.
7. Sin is anything that separates you from a Holy God when you do the things He hates such as:

*"...sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarrelling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these all who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God."*ⁱⁱⁱ

You will be forever separated from him - for those who hate him have their place in the Lake of fire.

8. We live in an age where this seems like a fairy-tale. We are ready to gamble our souls on the altar that science is right (there is nothing after death they say) and religion is an "old tale".
9. But What if you are wrong? Is it worth the gamble?

10. What if I am wrong, you retort? If my hope is in vain, then I would rest to nothingness. But what about you? What if your rest is not to nothingness but to instead behold the living God, the Ancient of Days?

11. The I AM, the One who said to you every time he came was not a message of eternal damnation but one of love. The one who always told you that:

"All I wanted to do all day long was to gather you under my wings like a hen its chicks."^{iv}

12. This Jesus I speak of, is not just a good man, a moral teacher, he says himself:

I am the way, the truth, the life, NO one gets to the father except through me.

13. He in another place says:

"I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly."

14. This is the same Jesus who indeed started his ministry with these words from the Prophet Isaiah:

"The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free"^v

15. This was his mission. The mission he gives us his disciples.

- *Are you poor in heart – You come – he will clothe you.*
- *Are you thirsty for righteousness - You come, drink from living waters where you will never thirst again.*
- *Are you suffering from the oppression of sin – You come, he will remove your burdens.*
- *Are you burdened by physical illness or any disability – you come he will heal you miraculously.*

16. Where do I start? You ask.

"To as many believed him, he gave the right to become sons of God"^{vi}

17. You need his word as he says:

"The scripture says, 'Human beings cannot live on bread alone, but need every word that God speaks.'"^{vii}

18. You cannot enter the kingdom unless you put your trust in Jesus - the purifier who will give you life.

19. You can know Jesus more and learn to love him with all your heart and mind and soul - through reading the bible - which is living^{viii}, it lasts forever.

20. When you repent:

- *He will lighten your load.*
- *He will give you a new name, a new mind, a new body, a new spirit.*
- *You will start living an abundant life.*
- *Out of your heart will flow living waters.*^{ix}
- *You will continue bearing fruit even in dry season.*^x
- *You will be a light shining in a dark world.*
- *You will have assurance of eternal life for even if you die - you will live again.*

21. So enter His gates with thanksgiving. The kingdom of God is here!

22. Once you are in and have settled down, this is what he will tell you:

- *Get baptised to remember what I did for you.*^{xi}
- *You will learn from me he says - "I am gentle and humble in Spirit,*
- *I will want you to take up your own cross daily "...And follow me."*
- *You will be persecuted, you will be hated for my name but take heart, if you overcome, you will see my kingdom.*

23. Run the race. Keep following me to the end.

24. Where to? To do what? You may ask.

He replies:

I will give you a helper - the Spirit

He will lead you where I choose - "I am the good shepherd". He says.

He will give you gifts of the Spirit to help you.

25. I will also teach you one of the most important skill while you are here, He says. What's that?

"To teach you to fish for men." What will I tell them you ask?

26. "Tell them what I told you:

"Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near"

“Lo behold, I am with you until the end of Time.”

NOTES

ⁱ Lamentations 2:14 GNT <http://bible.com/68/lam.2.14.gnt>

ⁱⁱ Matthew 4:17 GNT <http://bible.com/68/mat.4.17.gnt>

ⁱⁱⁱ Galatians 5: 19 – 21 (NLT)

^{iv} Reference and paraphrase from Matthew 23:37

^v Luke 4: 18 (NLT)

^{vi} John 1: 12

^{vii} Matthew 4:4 GNT <http://bible.com/68/mat.4.4.gnt>

^{viii} For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

<http://biblehub.com/hebrews/4-12.htm>

^{ix} <http://biblehub.com/john/7-38.htm> “Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

^x <http://biblehub.com/niv/psalms/1.htm>

^{xi} Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28: 19 (GNT).