



SERIES: November – December – Walking with Jesus

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Saturday, 11/06/2021

Scripture: Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:14-15

TITLE: Jesus' Whole Message

If you had to summarize Jesus' message, what would you say? If I asked you to summarize the formula for salvation, what would you say? Would it be something about asking Him into your heart? Would it be some kind of prayer? Would it be something about your good deeds? Just what would you say?

Well, Jesus' whole message can be summarized in just 3 words. What are those words? Let's go back to the Bible for the answer. Matthew 4:17 (CSB) says,

“From then on Jesus began to preach, ‘Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near.’”

After Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, was arrested, Jesus' formal ministry began. This transition, or handing off, was a significant event. John the Baptist was a forerunner, a preparer, and a type of Jesus. And now with the arrest and future execution, Jesus would come to fulfill His mission. In Matthew 4:17 Jesus said, “repent, because the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Mark records a fuller version His message in Mark 1:14-15.

“After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God: ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!’”

Mark's words sound a lot like Paul's words in Galatians 4. The time is fulfilled. This is the moment the King of Kings would begin His formal ministry. The Kingdom of Heaven has come near. It's not fully realized here. But the King was here to finish the preparations. And the first thing He had to do was declare the message: repent and believe. That's the whole of Jesus' message. Repent and believe.

Not many pastors today want to discuss repentance. Some of the best-selling books about Jesus paint Him as a one way ticket to heaven. They paint Him as a guy who loves everyone as they are so don't ever change.

Well, this picture of Jesus and depiction of His message is a lie. Jesus' message was, “repent and believe.”

Repent means to change one's thinking so that your actions follow suit. You realize you are a sinner in need of a savior, so you change your thinking that your way is working. You turn from your sin and turn to Christ. You allow Christ to save your soul and change your life.

It's a 180 degree turn in how you think, believe, and behave. You repent and you believe. You trust Jesus. You recognize who Jesus is as God in the flesh who came to seek and save the lost. You trust wholly that Jesus died for your sins and there is no other way. That's why repentance is married to belief. Jesus' message was simple and, yet, radical.

So here's my message for you: repent and believe. You may be here and are just starting to walk with Jesus. You have notions of Jesus but don't really know Him. I encourage you to listen to Jesus' message and turn from your sin and believe in Him as Savior.

If you are a Christian, you probably need to repent of some sin and display your belief. Do so today. Jesus' message has incredible power and application for everyone today.

The Kingdom of Heaven is near. Are you ready?