

# How do I share the gospel?

I have read quite a bit of theology recently and it has benefited me in a lot of ways, but I feel a bit confused in other ways.

One of the key issues I am a little confused about is 'what is the gospel?' and 'How do I share it?'

Previously I would have said something along the lines of the 4 steps

- God loves me
- I have sinned
- Jesus died for me
- I must decide

Problems with this. This was not how the earliest gospel was preached. There was a huge amount about Jesus being the Messiah.

## **End of Matthew**

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

## **End of Luke**

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.<sup>46</sup> He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.<sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

## **Romans 1**

...the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures <sup>3</sup> regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, <sup>4</sup> and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

<sup>5</sup> Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. <sup>6</sup> And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

So although there is nothing wrong with the 4 points they are missing a bit. The main issue is Israel's entire history and hope for a Messiah and for God to put the world to rights. There is a big emphasis on Jesus as ruling the world and wanting the nations to get in line.

### NT Wright says

*If we are to be biblical theologians, it simply will not do to tell the story of salvation as simply creation, fall, Jesus, salvation. We desperately need to say: creation, fall, Israel, Jesus, salvation. If we ask the question of how this particular human being is the instrument of salvation and do not say as our first answer, "because in him God's Israel-shaped plan to save the world came to fulfilment," then we leave a huge vacuum in our thinking (and in our reading of scripture).*

So perhaps

- God made the world and humans
- Human beings went against God's plans
- God chose Israel to get his plan on track and use them to bless the world
- However, even Israel went off track
- God promised an anointed one to restore Israel
- Jesus came and proclaimed God's kingdom was coming
- His central act was his death and resurrection
- Through that we may have forgiveness of sins
- We become God's people through repentance, baptism, the Spirit
- We are to live in a way that pleases god
- God will raise his people in the future and they will live in a restored world. We will received resurrected bodies like Jesus.

Power is released when we proclaim Jesus, the crucified and risen one, as Lord of the world.