

Intro: Another personal illustration of the “Good News” (Cf. [1:1, 15-16](#)). If you are carrying a huge burden of sin & guilt on your back today, this message is good news!

Recap: Last week, Jesus returned to Capernaum and unveiled Himself as the Son of Man, as one given divine authority from heaven to forgive the sons of man their sins on earth. If Jesus came from heaven to earth to forgive sins, what should we expect Him to be doing? Seeking sinners! Forgiveness of sin is the heart of the N.C.

1. The **Root** of the Kingdom – **preaching** (2:13)

- ⇒ John’s preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin ([1:4](#))
- ⇒ Jesus’ preaching the Gospel of God ([1:14-15](#))
- ⇒ Jesus’ [authoritative] teaching in the Capernaum synagogue ([1:21](#))
- ⇒ Jesus’ preaching the purpose He came ([1:38](#)) – no guarantee hear G again
- ⇒ But here, He does come again, “teaching” – went to the sea b/c crowd >
- ⇒ Paul’s purpose in [1 Cor. 1:17](#)
- ⇒ Paul’s command to Timothy in [2 Tim. 4:1-2](#)
- ⇒ If preaching is the root of the kingdom, why so many churches avoid it?
- ⇒ When looking to join a church, this is the 1st question you should ask.
- ⇒ The kingdom will not, it cannot, advance w/o preaching! ([Rom. 10:14](#))
- ⇒ The kingdom advances through *consistent* preaching: “**again**” ([Matt. 13](#))
 - Contra, “Well, they’ve heard the gospel now”

2. The **Response** of the Kingdom - **Salvation** (2:14)

A. The **Call**

- ⇒ Preaching involves commanding people to follow Jesus
- ⇒ How disciples made ([1:16-20](#)); must be called before they come
- ⇒ Let us take care not to preach only a ‘half gospel’! Hearing the gospel is essential, but it is only a response (i.e. faith) that saves!
- ⇒ “Call” is Christ’s effectual call, but *through* our call ([Matt. 22:14](#))
- ⇒ Are elect fish, but they need to be caught (bait = call; hook = gosp)

B. The **Cost**

- ⇒ But we must take care not to preach only the other half – ‘come,’ but w/o the stipulations of what it *means* to come (need balance).
- ⇒ Easy-believism perhaps greatest plight in western evangelicalism
- ⇒ Jesus *never* preached this way (cf. [Matt. 19](#) – let the rich young ruler depart; [Luke 14:28](#) – builder & king are to *count the cost*).
- ⇒ As in [1:16-20](#), Levi forsook his whole past for a glorious future.
- ⇒ Salvation is the costliest free gift you’ll ever receive.
- ⇒ ‘If you can’t come to Me everyday then don’t bother coming at all’

3. The **Recipients** of the Kingdom – **Sinners** (2:15)

- ⇒ The only people who accept God’s gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus are those who realize that they have sinned & fallen short of the glory of God, and that the wages of their sins is death.
- ⇒ “**Tax collectors**” (repeated 3X for emphasis) – viewed by Jews as traitors & unclean b/c of their association w/ the pagans.
- ⇒ Levi was likely collected tax on customs that passed through the city.
- ⇒ [Matt. 21:31](#) – they w/ the prostitutes enter the kingdom before the religious
- ⇒ “**Sinners**” – [Luke 18](#); [Matt. 19](#). How we must see ourselves b4 we come.
- ⇒ Why we must preach sin! Not to call all listeners ‘saints’ (Osteen).
- ⇒ Do we follow Christ’s example in seeking the vile? The text says “for” many followed. Some of these ‘followers’ are ‘down & outers.’ Let us also be prepared to sit & eat w/ such people, for of such is the kingdom
- ⇒ Though we are not *of* the world, we are still *in* it (contra Huderites).
- ⇒ Need to get out of our church bubbles sometimes (e.g. my vacation).
- ⇒ An encouragement: Mark says there were “many” reclining w/ Jesus
- ⇒ Do you see yourself this way: be comforted ([1 Tim. 1:15](#)).

4. The **Rejecters** of the Kingdom – the **Self-Righteous** (2:16)

- ⇒ B/c they misunderstand their need for forgiveness, they misunderstand Jesus’ message & ministry [cf. [John 9:24, 40-41](#)]
- ⇒ Thus the cross is a stumbling block & folly to them ([1 Cor. 1:18,23](#)), for it shows how utterly sinful sin really is & presupposes we can’t save self.
- ⇒ Why moral, religious people are often the hardest to reach ([Matt. 19:23](#))
- ⇒ [Prov. 26:12](#) – is > hope for a fool than one wise in his own estimation.

5. The **Reality** of the Kingdom – the **Sick** will be healed (2:17)

- ⇒ [Isa. 33:24](#) – “No one living in Zion will say, “I am ill”; and the sins of those who dwell there will be forgiven” (NIV).
- ⇒ Jesus answers their question of ‘why’
- ⇒ “B/c” as the Son of Man, Jesus’ whole ministry was to come into this sinful world to heal His people of their sin sickened souls. What distinguishes Christianity!
- ⇒ Aren’t you glad Jesus calls Himself a physician here & not a judge; that He came to heal & save sick sinners, not judge them? ([John 3:17](#))
- ⇒ Therefore in evangelism, we must show people they are “sick” (cancer)
- ⇒ For such ‘sick’ people are in reality blessed of God ([Matt. 5:3-5](#))

Conclusion: We have here a beautiful picture of what heaven will look like (cf. [2:18-22](#); [Isa. 25](#)): redeemed sinners – who have received His call – joyously gathered around Jesus, eating & drinking w/ Him, reveling in His presence. Outside will be the those who have rejected His gracious call – grumblers who have despised His mercy & spurned His love.

This is the Good News Isaiah wrote about 600 years before Christ came in 55:6-8.
Oh that the Spirit would open every eye here to make us return to the Lord.