



Life With God PART 2

The Grand Plan

Pastor Glen

November 18<sup>th</sup>

\*\*\*There are more questions than you perhaps need. Please choose / adapt a few that you think your group will respond well to.\*\*\*

The essence of religion is “I obey therefore I am accepted”. People often approach God on this basis and yet this is not what Jesus taught. Life WITH God is based on the “good news” that the victory is won and we can have relationship WITH God on this foundation. However we often still revert back to living life UNDER God and relate to Him by looking through the ‘religious lens’. How do you know if you are religion centred or gospel centred?

Mark 10: 17-27; Mark 1:13-14

The root word for ‘Gospel’ is “euangelion” (u-ann-gale-eon) which means “Good News”. A messenger was sent back to the home city from its army after it had secured victory. The man would stand on the city wall and declare the “good news” that the army had won. Their city was safe. They can now live again. Hearing this good news was cause for huge celebration!

- **Share a time when you received “euangelion” – how did you feel? How did you respond? How did it affect your understanding of God?**

We have a choice – see life through the rule focussed “religious lens” or the good news of the “gospel lens”

Read Mark 10:17-27

- **The rich young man’s life was characterised by a rule focused “religious lens”. Discuss how this affected him and his relationship with Jesus. (e.g. felt guilty, trying to please then ran away, regarded life WITH God as a set of rules)**

Mark 1:13-14, Acts 20:25

**If the rich young man had a ‘gospel lens’ how might he have responded differently to Jesus? E.g...**

- Felt sorrow and then conviction but also joy because of the good news of forgiveness
- Would run to Jesus not away from Him
- Been confident in His presence
- Looked forward to life WITH God not seen it as a burden

**Discuss Mark 10:21** – notice that Jesus saw the man’s earnest heart. Jesus responded to the question not to shame the man but to give loving encouragement and instruction.

**Does your relationship WITH God still have some ‘religious lens’ qualities? Share where you are ‘at’. What has been your experience? Share with the group and ask for prayer?**

**How would life in the church change if God’s people embraced the ‘euangelion’ more fully? How would this affect our communities?**

**Discuss the following statements and think / pray about where you are as a Christian:**

Religion = “I obey therefore I am accepted”

Gospel = “I am accepted therefore I obey”

