

## Socializing the Gospel

*Luke 4:16-22*

### Introduction

There is a relationship between meeting social needs and sharing the good news of the gospel message. When Jesus came, He did so to let people know that He was indeed the Messiah. He confirmed His identity by fulfilling Old Testament prophecies. Many of the prophecies included some type of social impact. Jesus came with good news that would make a difference in the lives of people who were struggling (Isaiah 61:1-2), he also preached the Kingdom of God and healed people. Not only did the Messiah come with a message but He validated His message with His method.

As Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God to the people, He did so in two ways, by presenting the content and the scope of the gospel. The content of the gospel are the facts related to His death, burial, and resurrection, which makes a person right with God. The scope of the gospel is related to its purpose and its ability to affect one's life here on earth.

Many times, the church of Jesus Christ is not balanced in applying these two components of the gospel. Sometimes the church emphasizes the content (the facts: all men need salvation through Jesus Christ) yet doesn't do such a good job on practicing the scope of the gospel (that the good news carries with it effectiveness for earth). However it can also be the other way around; the church might emphasize the scope but leave out the content. We must understand both because Jesus came and did both - and He asks us to do the same (Luke 10:9).

As believers, we have the power through Jesus Christ to bring help and healing associated with God's Kingdom Agenda, as well as spiritual and eternal impact. Jesus transferred the duty of ministering through truth and good works to the disciples. That same duty has been transferred to the church to continue doing what Jesus did by bringing the life-giving message to others, coupled with life-giving methods.

### Getting Started

1. Share with your group what types of good works you have engaged in. What impact did these works have for the Kingdom?
2. When was the last time you shared the message of Jesus Christ with another person? Why is it often difficult for believers to do so?

### Let's Get Personal

1. How does the understanding of Jesus' ministry and the gospel message affect how you now look at doing social work?
2. Has today's message of the Kingdom given you a clearer understanding of what God wants to do in the world? How so? Share your thoughts with your group.
3. Are you naturally sensitive to "picking up" on the needs of others? Why do you think you are (or are you not)?

### Take the Next Step

1. Do you have an idea of some good work you can do this week? How would your action of sharing the love of Jesus (the method) connect with the message of salvation?
2. Are you aware of the services that OCBF provides to our community through the Outreach Ministry? Make some time this week to visit <http://www.ocbfchurch.org/outreach> to learn more and find out how you can get involved.
3. Want to dig deeper? Look at Luke 4:38-44, Luke 9:1-6, and/or Isaiah 61:1-4.

### Renew Your Mind

*"...heal those... who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'" Luke 10:9*

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