

Context for 55 Word Gospel

Luke 14:15-24

15 One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, “Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” 16 Then Jesus said to him, “Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. 17 At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for everything is ready now.’ 18 But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.’ 19 Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.’ 20 Another said, ‘I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.’ 21 So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, ‘Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’ 22 And the slave said, ‘Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.’ 23 Then the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. 24 For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.’”

Genesis 1:26-28

26 Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” 27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

Isaiah 61:1-2

1 The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn

Romans 1:18-25

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those who by their wickedness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So they are without excuse; 21 for though they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools; 23 and they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling a mortal human being or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles. 24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the degrading of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

1 Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, 2 through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. 3 For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, 4 and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

Philippians 2:5-11

5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, 7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

55 Word Gospel Examples

Grace is good news, none deserve it. Created in God's image, we chose ourselves, not him. God's mercy reached its climax when Jesus lived on earth, was executed, resurrected. In obedience to his leadership alone, we receive forgiveness and restoration from brokenness and corruption. Christ's resurrection brings freedom and healing, here on earth and beyond.

Good news of great joy! The refugee girl holds the hope of nations in her arms. Displaced and disgraced, like mother like son, he adapted himself to our wounds. Life's source drained death's bitter cup dry. When he emerged from the earth's rocky womb, a new people was born, a new world conceived. Jesus > death.

The Spirit molded earth and peoples, longing for people to know Her. People were fragmented from themselves, the land, and the Spirit. So the Spirit put on flesh to walk amongst people. The earthly life and death of the divine Spirit gave all peoples the path towards wholeness with the Spirit, the giver of life.

Life, God's gift, is beautiful. God lovingly created humans. Humans rejected God, invited evil. God didn't disengage, but became human. Jesus of Nazareth, God Incarnate, was executed; the extent of evil thrust upon him. This couldn't hold Jesus from life, and once resurrected, Jesus proved the power of the Triune God over death, evil.

We were made for God's kingdom, somehow called to be a part of creating that kingdom. Broken by our own pride, God sent his son to bring about that kingdom, and redefine His people. By Him we live as people of that kingdom; by the power of the Triune God, we love as He loves.

A Perfect World marred by deceived, ragamuffin people
disease, demise, disaster
God-with-us, setting things to rights
driven by love
Crossing death
a rescuer, a restorer came
inviting all to a community of beauty, peace, hope
be reconciled
be clean
be Free
a gift, to us, Christ's beloved
Welcome!
no fear
no shame
Peace.
Forever.

God breathed life into his human creation.
He deemed us as good.
Dominion was granted.
Relationships were whole.
Things were as intended.

Then came the fall.
Mistrust and pride.
Sin and death.
Alienation followed.

To make right what had been broken, God sent his Son to die.
Jesus conquered death in victory.
He now reigns.