I am going to introduce you to the gospel right now.

You are rebel. Whether or not you want to acknowledge it, I'll tell you straight up. You are a rebel against the living God; this is your natural disposition! Why? Because you were born in sin.

We are in a prison cell and it takes the awakening and the grace of God (we call it the prevenient grace of God) to awaken us to the fact that we are lost and that we can't get out. We're headed towards destruction, fast. The enemy,
because of our rebellion against God, has legal rights to harm and harass our life.

There you are behind the prison cell, "HELP, I NEED OUT!!" You can't get out...those prison bars are stronger than any adamant. There is no way you can cut 'em because they're stronger than diamond! It is impenetrable; you cannot escape!

You're doomed. Because when the enemy comes in the very end, he's gonna finish you off. Because he has legal right to do it and he's gonna relish every minute of it!

In strolls your intercessor, your mighty man. And he stands between you and that accuser... and He takes the hit that was rightfully yours! He takes the blow that was intended for you! That is an extraordinary reality that He was turned to a pulp and He actually died! GOD...DIED...for you.

Over your prison cell it is has always said, "CONDEMNED." "SEPARATED," eternally, from God. "GUILTY"! And then suddenly, it switches when you realize what Jesus Christ has done. It says, "JUSTIFIED." It says, "FORGIVEN," "REDEEMED"!!

Here's the problem: most of us have stopped with the good news right there. The blood of Jesus Christ has been shed and He was killed. And I want you to know that that is unbelievable news. But we are still in a prison cell!

And so we're praising God from within a prison cell, going, "Thank You for forgiving me, thank You for changing the sign on the outside of the prison!"

And God's word says, "Could you check the door to the prison cell? Because My blood was shed for more than just forgiveness."

Forgiveness was the avenue through which He could make the escape for us! He isn't just interested in dealing with the consequences of the penalty of sin! He's also dealt with the problem of sin!

"Test the door; it's unlocked!"

The door to the prison cell is UNLOCKED! WALK OUT! Smell the open air of freedom and liberty in the light of Jesus Christ!!

When you get outside of the prison cell, there's like this chariot that's waiting. Emissaries from the king, and they say, "The King beckons you into His presence."

Do you know how bizarre this is? When you realize that you were a rebel, that you were undeserving completely? That the living God has literally given up His life for you, that now He has set you free, and now, the very King is beckoning you into His presence?!

It's like, "Uh, are you sure you have the right guy here? I'm a rebel. I-I stood against my God; I spat in His face! How could He want me?"

"The King beckons you."

You get in the chariot and as they pull into the kingdom, you're looking for where they might drop you off. You're looking for that poor district, saying, "Where are you taking me?"

"Oh, into the very near presence of the King. He wants you to live right where He lives."

Not just the penalty, not just the problem, but an invitation into His very near presence!

But as you're coming in, the emmissaries say, "He wants to adopt you as His child."

"Me?? As His child??"

We are brought in and invited near to share His heart! You come into His presence, totally broken before the reality of w
hat He has done for you.

"I don't deserve this! Why have you done this for me??!"

"I LOVE YOU. I have a commission for you."

"For me? You want...to have me work...for You?"

"I want you to work for Me, I want you to represent Me."

"Absolutely! Anything I can do for You; just tell me!"

"I need You to go back to that prison cell that I took you out of because there's a whole bunch more that need to know a bout Me and my love and my truth. Will you go for me?"

"In a heartbeat! I would--I would gladly serve You! Anyway You want, anyway You ask!"

"I need to forewarn you; I'm going to send you out and you'll be as a sheep among wolves. They'll kill you, they'll destroy you, they'll hate you, they'll persecute you, they will do whatever they can to harm you!"

"I'm in! I'll do it, God! I don't care--You shed Your blood for me--I would GLADLY shed my blood for You. Take my body, take my blood!! Spend it any way You want! I belong to You in covenant! Take me, Lord Jesus! SEND ME!"

It's the commission. Not just the penalty, not just the problem, not just the invitation into His very near presence, not just the adoption as a son or a daughter of the King of kings! But we are commissioned to represent Him! And I want you to realize that that is a privilege beyond all other privileges! To bear the very name, the very image, the very reputation of GOD ALMIGHTY!

And He says, "I ask you to go. Go and make disciples of all men. GO and be unashamed of My gospel and preach it! G O, rescue the lost in the power of My name, for is not the Lamb that was slain worthy to receive the reward of His sufferi ng?"

"I'll go."

And as you're beginning to head out with His blessing, He says, "Hold it, wait; there's one more thing."

Not just the penalty, not just the problem, not just the invitation into His very near presence, not just the adoption as a son or a daughter of the King, and not just the commission. This is the capstone! If you think that is all good, you could wrap that all up into one ball and it still falls short of the final one. Because this final one is so condescending on the part of our King; it is so bewildering, it is so extraordinary, it's so amazing, and this is the truth that turns the world upside down!

"Before you go, what I'm sending you out to do is impossible, I know. And if you do it in your own strength, you'll fail."

"I don't care. I'm willing to do whatever You ask of me and if You want me to go out there and just die, I'm willing!"

"I'm sending you out to be a victor...my children will not lose! Would you give Me your body and I will come in and make it my home. And I will take those hands of yours and make them My hands. I will take those feet of yours and make them My feet. I will take that mouth of yours and it will speak My words. I will take those eyes of yours and they can see what I need to be seen in this world.

"And I will take your heart of stone and make it a heart of flesh so that it will beat with my burdens and you will care for the very things that I care about! Your prayers will become my prayers, and your life, and your attitude, and your behavior, every minute of every day, will be the very behavior of God! Will you allow Me...to OVERTAKE your life?"

Because then we go into this world, as little lambs... with the faces of lions! Because the living God Almighty, the consum ing, almighty, sovereign God dwells within His children...and as we stand, with the wolf packs around us, we stand in the authority of the name of Jesus and we will not back down because we do not head off to war to lose; we head off to
war to win!! Our God mocks all the powers of earth and hell through floppy little lambs! Because His lambs beat the wolf back!

That's the Gospel! The Gospel trounces upon all the powers of earth and hell and demonstrates to the universe the manifold wisdom of God; that He is in control! And even though we look weak, and even though physically and naturally we are weak; spiritually, greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world!! THAT is good news! And it's a lot better than what's being dealt out today in the church!

We need to rise up, proclaim the gospel, and say, "I am not ashamed of it! Dear Lord Jesus, take what is rightfully yours! Don't just send us, send us with Yourself firmly planted within our souls! We cannot do Your work, we cannot bring You glory, even though we're willing to do it without You. Please, if You want to come with us, why in the world would we ever try on our own??"

You don't have to go on your own, you don't have to pull off the impossible on your own, you don't have to fail any longer! Your God is ready to do it in and through you. You can't do it! You can't muster up the discipline, you can't muster up the intellect, you can't muster up the strength, you can't muster up the perseverance and the fortitude. He can! You can't love the lost, you can't love those that spit upon your face; He can!

Don't pray that God would teach You how to love like He loves; pray that He would fill you with Himself, that he would love in and through you! Don't pray that He would teach you to have joy; pray that the living God full of joy would enter into you! Don't pray that He would teach you how to be peaceful; ask for the God of peace, the Prince of peace, to fill you!

Because if you try to imitate in your own strength, you will be a miserable replica! But if you allow the impartation of Jesus Christ to overtake you, suddenly it all works.

Because it's Him imitating Himself! And He's very good at being GOD.

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**Re: - posted by Creation7, on: 2011/10/8 20:34**

Excellent job, savedtoserve! This is definitely a keeper. Thanks for doing the tedious work of transcribing!

**Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2014/6/13 15:03**

Since we are on the subject of Eric Ludy, I just wanted to bump this thread from a couple of years ago. I really like this short video.