

## SERMON NOTES

SERIES: Gospel Fluency  
TITLE: Speaking Gospel

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:1-16; Hebrews 10:19-31

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The word *gospel* means Good News. When we read the word gospel in the Bible and in most other places, we know that it is referring to the Good News about Jesus. The idea of fluency is used most often in relation to being able to speak two or more languages. Yet the word fluent means to be able to express oneself easily and articulately, not necessarily just in foreign languages. So, when we talk about *gospel fluency* this summer, we are talking about being able to express and communicate the Good News about Jesus easily and articulately to yourself and others.

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We are concluding our series on Gospel Fluency today. Being gospel fluent requires two things:

First, being gospel fluent means you have to be able to speak the gospel to yourself. To do that, you need to understand that the gospel is more than what you believed when you first believed. The gospel *is what makes you right with God, but it's also what keeps you right with God in all of life.*

Second, being gospel fluent means speaking the gospel into other people's lives. To do that, you have to have a "ministry mentality" in all of life. God wants you to help others to remember the truths of the gospel when they forget. This is what we will focus on today...

Ephesians 4:1-16 —

- God calls each of us into a certain kind of relationship with others (4:1-10)—into relationships characterized by humility, gentleness, patience, and love. God calls you to this kind of relationship because he wants to do something through you in your relationships. God is always sovereignly at work in you and around you. When you are in relationships characterized by humility, gentleness, patience, and love, you are able to join God in what he's doing. If your relationships are characterized by self-importance, harshness, impatience, and self-centeredness, you get in the way of what God is doing. In every circumstance of life, we are making choices to either be a part of what God is doing or we're making choices to be in the way of what God is doing.
- God calls us into this kind of relationship because he also calls us to adopt a ministry mentality in all of life (4:11-16). Each of us is called into a "building-up-one-another-into-Christ" ministry mentality. Each of us is called into a "speaking-the-truth-in-love" ministry mentality. Your Savior calls you to a view of life that makes every area of your life, every moment of your life a forum for ministry.

Hebrews 10:19-31 —

- Notice how this passage breaks down. In vv. 19-23, you have a very clear call to live confidently in light of the grace of the gospel—to hold fast to the gospel, your confession of faith. In vv. 26-31, you have a very clear call to take sin seriously. The beginning and end of the passage make this

point: Because the grace of Jesus has come to us at such a great cost, we are to never minimize our sin. Look at what is sandwiched in between in vv. 24-25. Why is there a call to have a ministry mentality toward one another? Because the author of Hebrews knows that, in the hard times of life, when the pressure's on, we will never hold on to grace and we'll not take our own sin seriously unless we are living in an intentionally-intrusive, gospel fluent kind of community.

- The question is—What does it look like to live in gospel fluent relationships with this ministry mentality? How do I speak gospel to someone who has forgotten what God has promised to be for them because of the gospel. Three words in vv. 24-25 give us a thumbnail sketch of what to do.
- First word—*consider*—*let us consider*—meaning, you listen, you *probe*, you ask clarifying questions to make sure you understand the facts of what's going on—you're reflecting on what they're saying and you're asking God to give you wisdom in how to respond.
- Second word—*stir up*—*let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works*—to stir up means to provoke in a good way—it means to expose how what they think is the problem is not how God defines their problem—*How do you do that?*—You ask a pointed question—*Do you want to know what's really going on? ...*You push them to think more deeply about what's going on—*"Could it be that this is more about what God's doing in you than what you want God to do out there? ..."*
- Third word—*encourage*—this is not giving advice—it's not quick fixes, spiritual platitudes, or "Oh you poor dear, I'll pray for you." No, it's not giving advice; it's giving them the gospel—reminding them of gospel truths they have forgotten—reminding them of who they are in Christ—of God's sovereignty in all things—of God's grace that's always available for them—consider, push in, encourage with the gospel—

#### Rob Mark's story illustration

Conclusion — This is what it means to have gospel fluent conversations with people—this is what this ministry mentality that God calls each of us to looks like—God is always working in you and around you. Every day, in every way, we can either join him in what he's doing or we can get in the way of what he's doing. To join him in what he's doing in the lives of the struggling people he brings across our paths means to approach people in humility, gentleness, patience, and love—it's a call to—*Consider how to stir up one another to love and good works—encouraging one another with the good news—the truths that are in Jesus—until Jesus comes back to take us home.*

#### For Discussion

1. What was your biggest "aha" or "take away" from this message?
2. How do you find yourself getting in the way of what God may want to do with your kids, your spouse, the people you work with? ...What would it look like to enter into the hard times of life with people if you accepted God's call to an all-of-life ministry mentality?
3. When do you tend to forget God's grace? ...When do you tend to minimize your own sin?
4. If we took Gospel fluency seriously, how would it change the last argument you had with someone; how would it change how you talk to someone struggling with worry, anger, pride; how would it change the temptation you have to give quick and easy advice into considering, stirring up, and encouraging someone with the truth that's in Jesus?