

Common misplaced views of Jesus' mission?

*Social / political reform?
make things fair*

*Spiritual / moral renewal?
make me holy*

*Personal refreshment?
make me happy*

Jesus' credentials

- ✓ His coming was pre-announced.
- ✓ He was raised from the dead.
- ✓ Unlike the prophets, he drew attention to himself and received worship from people.
- ✓ He came for the purpose of dying.

**It was all about
the CROSS!**

Mark 8

"27 And Jesus went out, along with His disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way He questioned His disciples, saying to them, "Who do people say that I am?" 28 And they told Him, saying, "John the Baptist; and others say Elijah; but others, one of the prophets." 29 And He continued by questioning them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "Thou art the Christ." 30 And He warned them to tell no one about Him."

Making peace with the Cross

**Step #1 Recognizing the unique
authority of Jesus as Messiah**

What kind of Messiah did the Jews expect?

- ✓ He would be a man. **(Not God incarnate)**
- ✓ He would be a biological descendent of King David. **(No virgin birth)**
- ✓ He would bring in the Kingdom - rebuild the temple, return all Jews to Israel, bring world peace. **(No spiritual kingdom)**
- ✓ He would do this in his lifetime. **(No second coming)**

*Jesus was dismissed as a false messiah
because of the offense of the Cross.*

What kind of Messiah did the OT predict?



What kind of Messiah did the OT predict?



**Isaiah 53 predicted a vicarious
"a suffering servant" Messiah.**

- vs.5 "But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities. The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him; and by His scourging we are healed."
- vs.6 "But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him."
- vs.10 "but the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a guilt offering."
- vs.11 "My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities."

**How does Judaism view Isa.53s
"suffering servant"?**



The nation of Israel
Isa.42, 49



An individual
Isa.50:4-11

MESSIAH

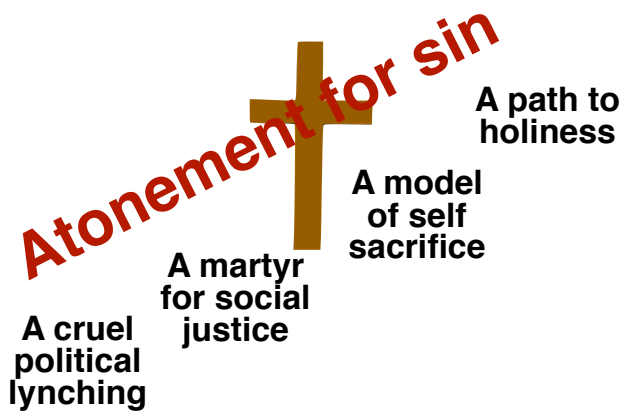
"Some Jewish commentaries identify the servant as the Messiah" JSB p891

Mark 8

"31 And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And He was stating the matter plainly. . ."

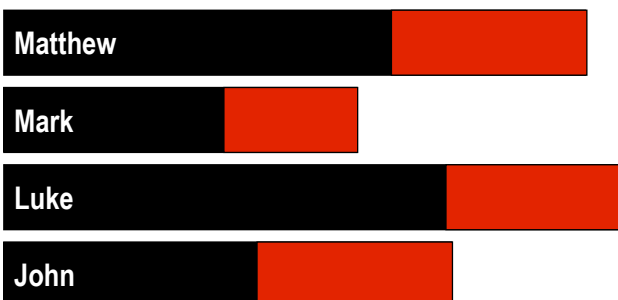
- Step #1 Confessing Jesus as Lord**
Step #2 Understanding his mission (the Cross).

Interpretations of the Cross



**The emphasis
of the Gospels**

**The Passion and
Resurrection**



**In terms of time, the Crucifixion and
Resurrection are but a short part of
Jesus ministry.**

**Passion and
Resurrection**

birth, teaching, miracles, deeds of Jesus

**But they cast a long shadow back to the
beginning of his mission.**

John 1:29
"Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world."

John 7:8
"I do not go up to this feast because My time has not yet come."

John 12:27
"For this reason I came to this hour."

The emphasis of the World

Political model Environmental reform Abundant life here and now Social ethics

birth, teaching, miracles, deeds of Jesus

Passion and Resurrection

Atonement for sin Hope through resurrection Self sacrifice Personal ethics

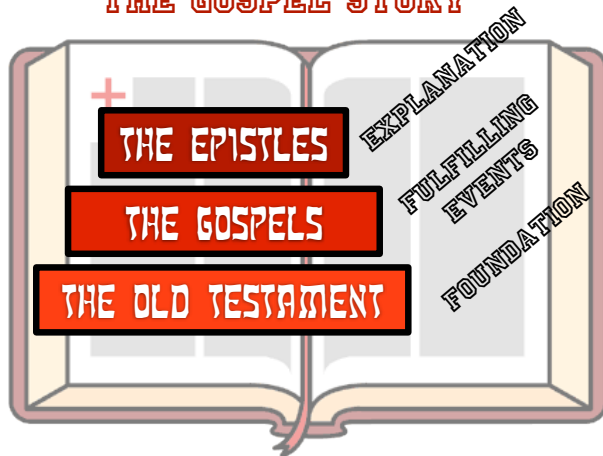
The emphasis of the Epistles

The politics of Jesus

Jesus' ethical teachings had powerful social implications.

But they were never applied through a political ideology by Jesus or his disciples.

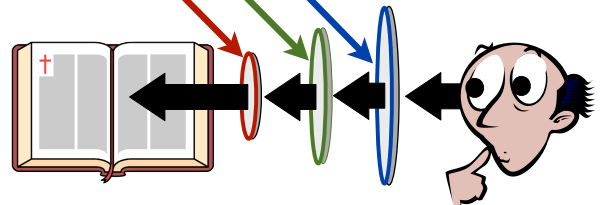
THE GOSPEL STORY



Old Testament

Gospels

Epistles



We interpret the Gospels through the Epistles.

Ephesians 2:19-22

“¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, ²⁰ having been built upon the **foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone**, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;”

Mark 8

“³² . . . And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. ³³ But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter, and said, “Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.” ”

- ✓ A proper mindset is critical to navigating the world as a Christian.
- ✓ Knowing Jesus is of little value if you don’t understand his mission.
- ✓ We cannot know where Jesus is leading us unless we are behind (not ahead of) him.

Mark 8

“³⁴ And He summoned the multitude with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ³⁵ For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s shall save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? ³⁷ what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? ”

Step #3 Denying self that we might know and find self.

- ✓ The path to the Kingdom and life is through the cross of Christ and our own cross.

The Word of the Cross has two applications.

What Christ did for us

What Christ calls us to do



Atonement for sin

Path to life

1 Peter 4

“¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; ¹³ but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.”

Mark 8

“³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

Step #4 Bearing the shame of the Cross

- ✓ Peter’s story will involve denial (14:66-72) but also restoration.
- ✓ The shame is associated with the Cross.

Hebrews 12:2

“who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,”

Hebrews 12:12-13

“Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. So, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach”

Making peace with the Cross

involves

Confessing Jesus

which involves

Embracing his mission

which involves

Denying ourselves

which involves

Sharing his shame

**Example
of Jesus being IN but not OF
the world.**

**Disciples know that Jesus'
mission and theirs is
centered on the Cross which
they proudly bear.**

1 Corinthians 15:3

“For I delivered to you as
of first importance
what I also received,
that Christ died for our sins
according to the Scriptures.”

Philippians 3:10

“that I may know

Him

and the power of

His resurrection

and the fellowship of

His sufferings,

being conformed to

His death.”

1 Corinthians 1:15

“For the word of the cross
is foolishness to those who
are perishing,

but to us

who are being saved
it is the power of God.”