

The Early Ministry of Jesus

John 1:35-2:11, Luke 4:14-44, John 3:1-21



PRAYER



Your Questions...?



Context.

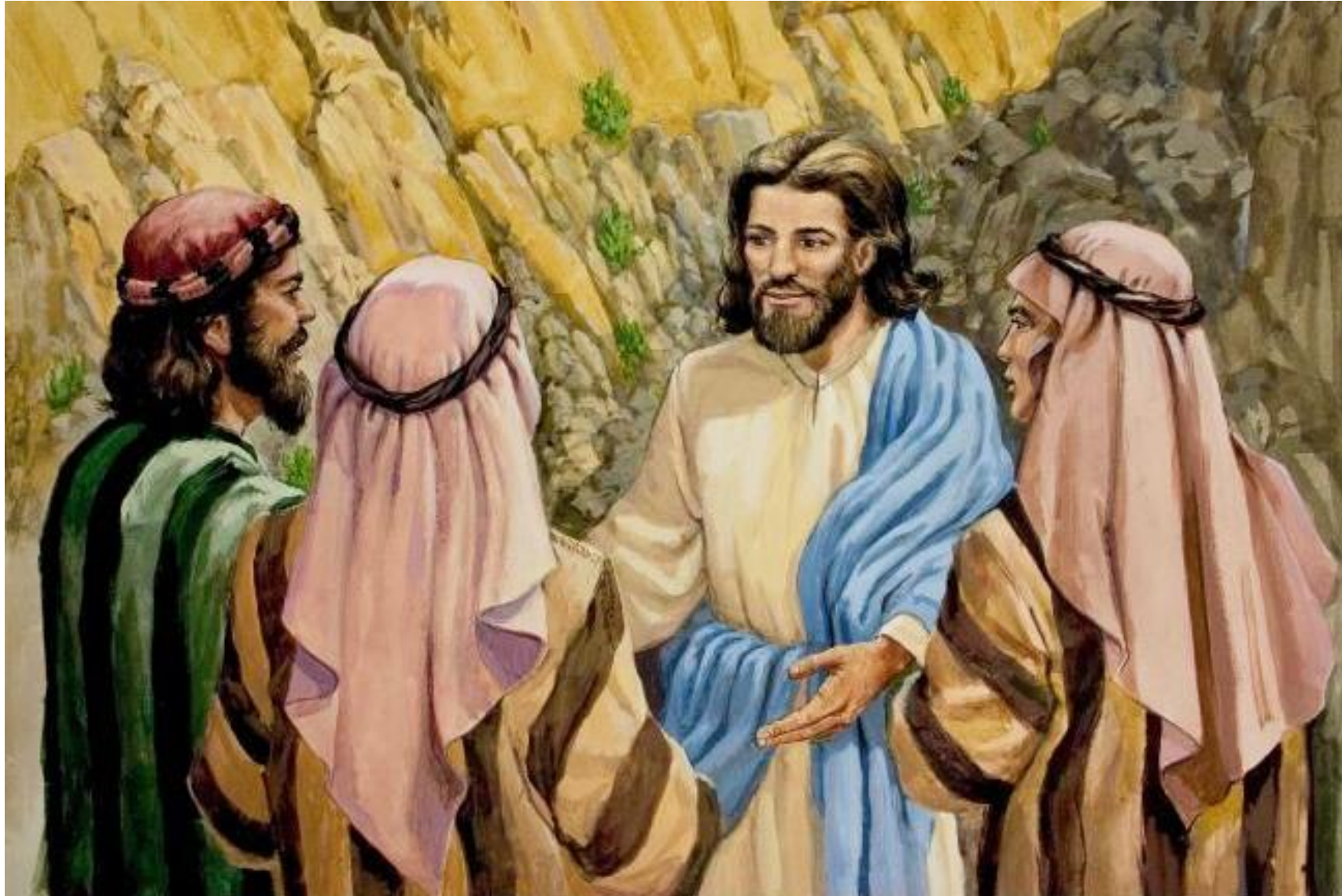
WHO?



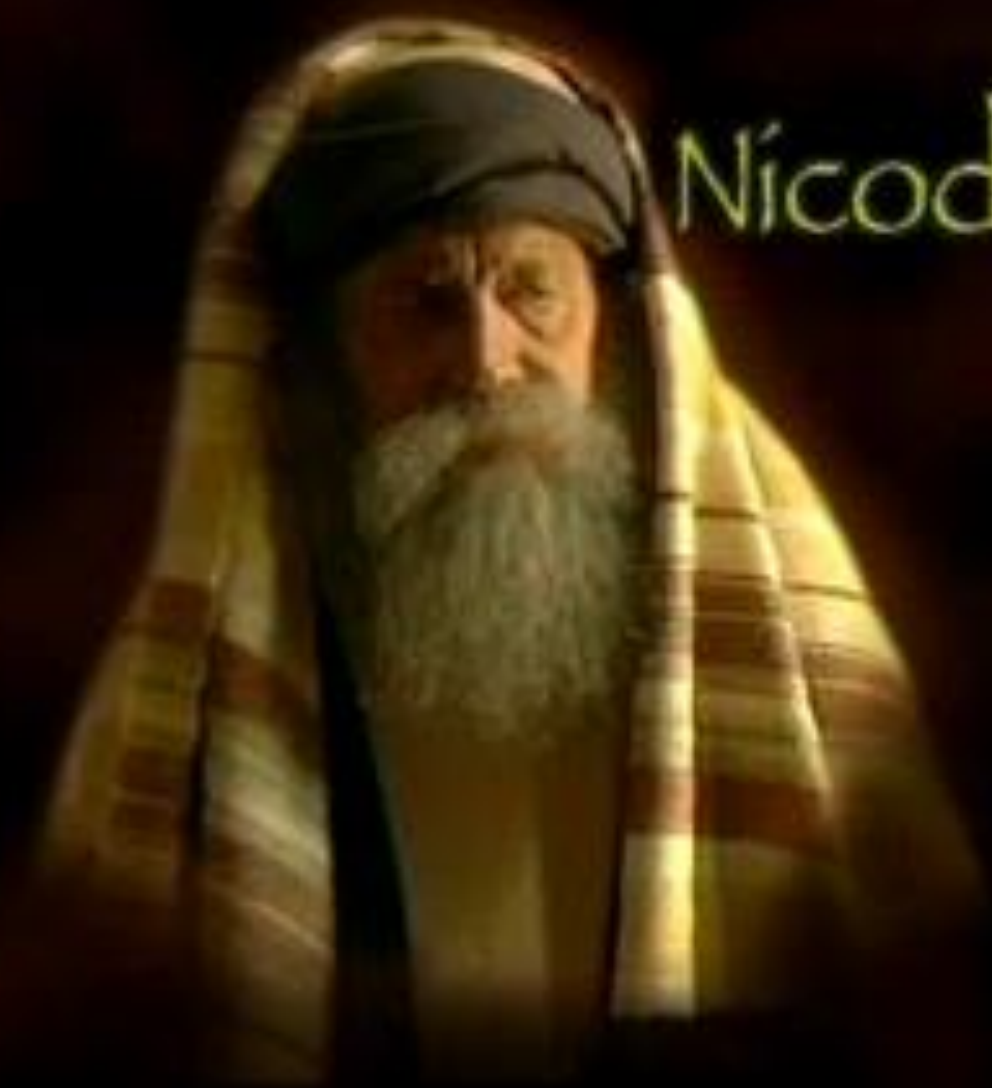
John the Baptist



Andrew, John, Peter, Philip, & Nathaniel



Nicodemus



WHEN?

- Jesus was about 30 years old when he began his ministry (~27-28 A.D.).



WHERE

JESUS' MINISTRY

Jesus performs first miracle at Cana and teaches in Galilee

Jesus teaches Nicodemus

Jesus calls first disciples



The Story



Read: John 1:35-51

1.) Find three examples in this section of one sinner leading another to Jesus.



- John pointed his disciples, Andrew (and probably John) to Jesus, “the Lamb of God”



- Andrew told his brother Simon (also called Peter)



- Philip invited his skeptical friend Nathaniel with a simple, “Come and see!”



Read: John 2:1-11

1.) The first miracle Jesus performed was turning water to wine at the wedding in Cana. What was the primary purpose of this miracle and all Christ's miracles (2:11)?



- Jesus performed miracles to confirm and strengthen faith that he was the Son of God and Savior.



Read: Luke 4:14-30

1.) Jesus went to preach in his hometown of Nazareth. At first the people were impressed with his words, but they quickly took offense at him and even wanted to kill him, why? (4:22,23)

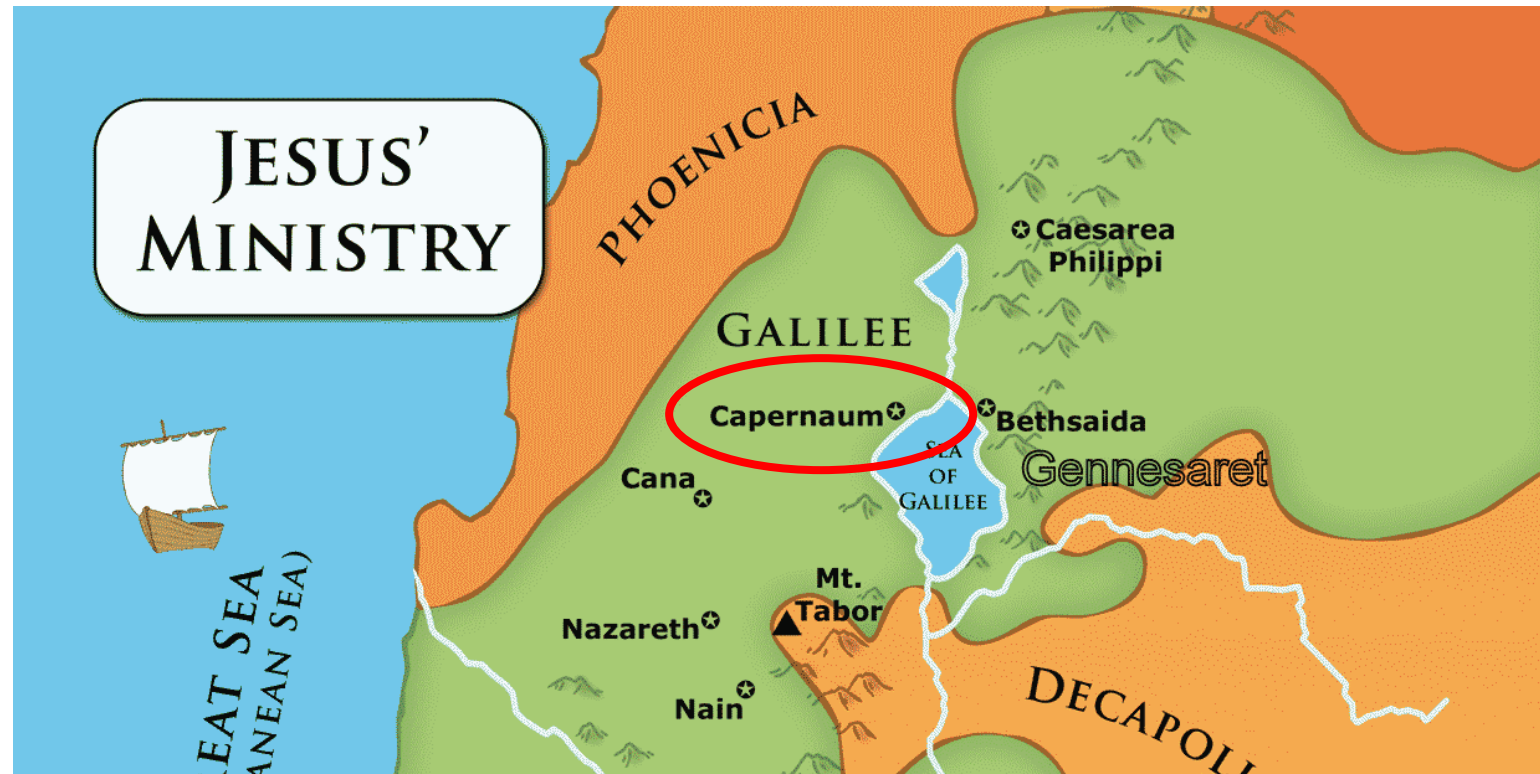


- They despised Jesus because he had grown up among them as a simple carpenter's son
- They wanted more than words... they wanted Jesus to “put on a show”—perform a miracle

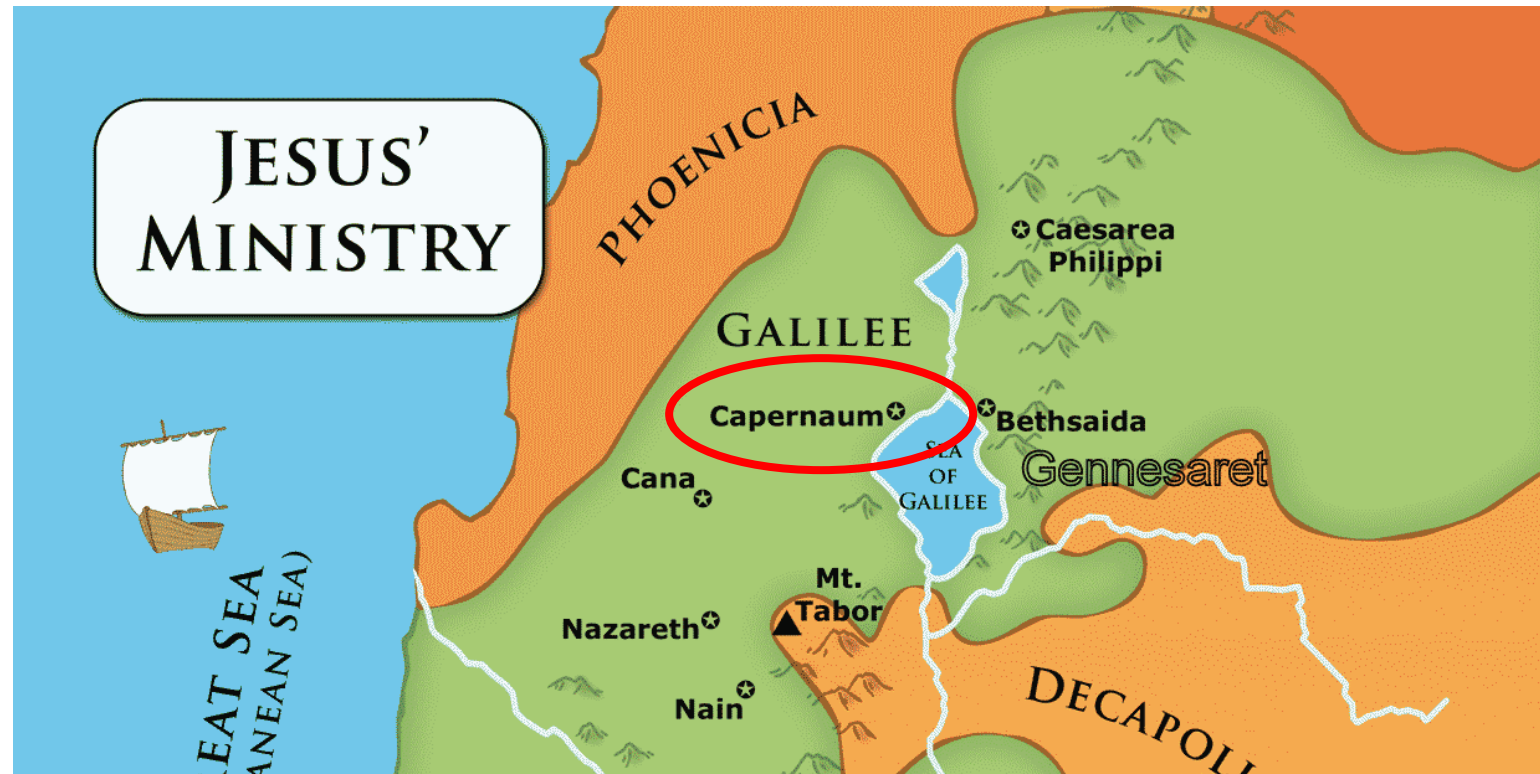


Read: Luke 4:31-37

1.) The Bible tells us that there is a spiritual world of mighty angels and demons surrounding us that we cannot see. What comfort does this section give us?



- Although they may trouble us, no demonic powers can defeat Jesus, who is with us



Read: Luke 4:38-44

1.) The crowds wanted Jesus to stay and take care of them. What did Jesus say his primary mission was instead (4:43-44)?



- His purpose was to preach the good news (the gospel) to as many as possible.



*2.) Some churches say the mission of the church is making the world a better place. How does Jesus own example in verses 43-44 help us keep sight of our true mission?



- Jesus by no means neglected the sick and needy. He did all he could to relieve their suffering. But he also made it clear that his greatest concern was bringing souls to salvation through faith in him.



Read: John 3:1-21

Jesus' miracles were attracting the attention of the religious leaders, but Jesus tells Nicodemus that they were focusing on the wrong thing. God's kingdom is not a matter of things seen, but the unseen working of the Holy Spirit.



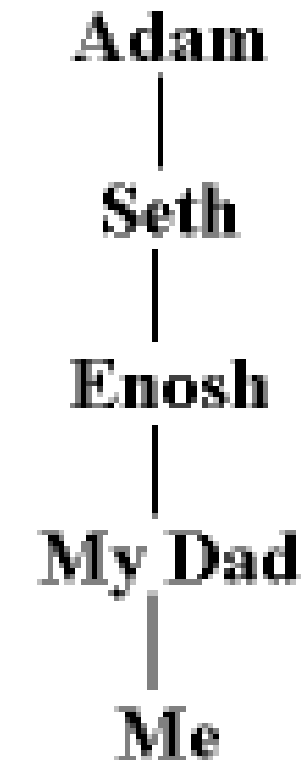
THE HOLY SPIRIT

*1.) Reread verses 3-6.

Jesus explains that by nature sinners are trapped in a hopeless cycle of inherited sin: “flesh gives birth to flesh,” which means sinners give birth to more sinners...

Inherited Sin

Our sin nature is transmitted from our parents



Read: John 3:1-21

...Only the Holy Spirit can break that cycle by making someone spiritually alive or “reborn”. The primary way that the Spirit does this is by “water and the Spirit.”

What is Jesus referring to here?

- Baptism



“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned.” (3:14-18a)

*2.) Jesus predicted that he would be lifted up on a pole = he would be crucified to give eternal life to the world.

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*2.) What special comfort can we find in the words: “everyone,” “the world,” and “whoever”?

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- It means absolutely NO ONE is excluded. Jesus paid for the sins of ALL. EVERYONE who believes—no matter who they are or what they’ve done—is saved forever!

*3.) In Jesus God has done absolutely everything needed to save sinners. What will be the sad fate for all who reject what Jesus has done for them (verse 18b)?



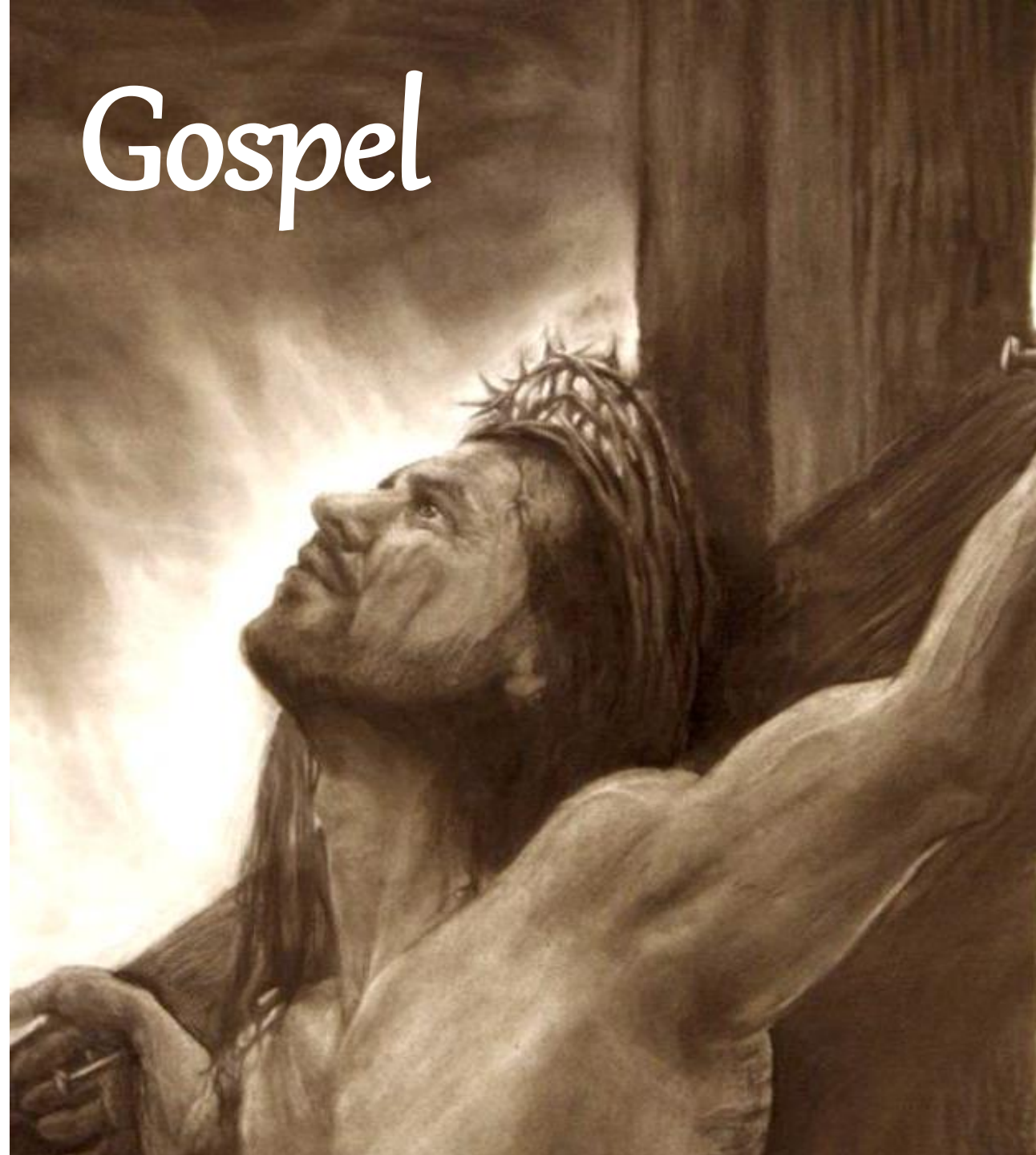
- They will be condemned = sent to hell forever



LAW



Gospel



LAW

- God's commands, threats, punishments...
 - Jesus tells the disciples to follow him
 - Beware of despising God's Word
 - We are all born in sin and spiritually dead
 - All who reject God's Savior will be condemned

Gospel

- God's mercy, forgiveness, goodness, and promises...
 - Jesus performs miracles, drives out demons, and heals the sick
 - Jesus proclaims the good news of forgiveness to all
 - The Holy Spirit gives us spiritual life through holy baptism
 - Jesus came to suffer and die for our sins
 - Anyone who believes in him is forgiven and saved!

Assignment for Next Time...

Read

- Matthew 4:18-25; 9:9-13; 5:1-16 (Jesus Calls and Teaches his Disciples – Part 1)
- Complete Reading Reflection Guide

Memory Work:

- *John 15:16*
- *Matthew 5:16*

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