

God did a really big thing at the Cross and Resurrection—He provided a way to redemption, to eternal life, to an abundant life here on Earth, to a whole new Kingdom—both here and now and also there and then!

Of course, all the groundwork was laid well before the actual events of those three days. In fact, we see in Revelation 13:8 that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit strategically agreed to the plan of salvation through the Cross from the very beginning! Glory be to Jesus for His sacrifice as the unblemished Lamb of God!

So, just how big was this event? Well...crazy big! But, all too often, humanity has created its own pet traditions and theologies and power positions over others, tactics that very often deliberately step in to try to limit the bigness of everything the Kingdom of God represents. So let's back up and take a look at some of the ways that God's way is big, in fact, that God's way is the very definition of "big."

- First, *eternity big*—God has prepared an awesome eternity for those believe. John 3:16 (ESV) says it this way: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." Can we really fully grasp eternity? Well, hardly. But we do grasp eternity well enough to know this is the greatest thing ever, something really, really special. But the unbeliever is often content to believe only that which he can see with his eyes—the body lying before him lies died and it's all over in every way.

The Apostle Thomas was a bit like that—he had to see Jesus personally to believe He had risen from the dead. But then, the Resurrected Jesus said this to the directly-informed but chastened Thomas: "Have you believed because you have seen me?" Jesus said. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." You see, we not only receive eternity, we are blessed even more because we believed without seeing. That's God's way: very big! Is your Gospel that big?

- Second, *inclusive big*—God really wants *everyone* in fellowship with Him for eternity. The plain, direct message of the Scriptures readily affirms this. The Apostle Peter wrote it this way in 2 Peter 3:9 (ESV), "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance." And just before the Apostle John's justifiably famous 3:16 that we just spoke to, the verses right before that say, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that *whoever believes in him may have eternal life.*" [emphasis mine]

That's right! *Whoever* believes in Jesus as their sole source of salvation may have eternal life. So rejoice! The Cross is not limited to the wealthy, the Chosen people, the powerful, or the elites of every stripe declaring that God must be limited as found in their various intricate musings and interpretations—no, the Cross is available to all. Now, that's inclusive big! Is your Gospel that big?

- Third, *grace big*—God fully extends His boundless grace to everyone who believes in Jesus, His death, and His resurrection. And believers can and should act in just that way. The Apostle Paul said this to the Romans in 6:14 (ESV): "For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace." Wow, that is the big promise of a grace-abounding life in Christ. But it seems that many Christians often like to try to straddle law and grace. When you turn on a political news channel nowadays, and Christian speakers are featured, are you hearing them proclaim "the law" or "Jesus' grace"?

Well, my friend, that simply reveals a person's delusional pride, the most destructive sin of all. You see, Moses' Law actually increases sin (that's in Romans 5:20) and arouses sin (Romans 7:5). You simply can't keep the Law perfectly—no one can! The irony is, if you'll focus on God and his incredible grace and start to work on loving others in just the ways God says, you'll come closer to keeping the law than from all your striving to please Moses. Just how big is God's grace in

removing your sin and your guilt? Well, God promised Paul that “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” No limitations! That’s grace big! Is your Gospel that big, every day?

- Fourth, *citizenship big*—God immediately transfers you into the Kingdom. Yes, that’s right, upon your simple faith and by His grace, you are transferred into the Kingdom of His Son. That’s in Colossians 1:13 in the ESV. And that’s how and why we are ambassadors for Christ, as Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:20: “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” So I ask you, can the Italian Ambassador to the United States do anything truly legitimate and honorable except represent Italy and her aims and goals? Likewise, you and I, citizens of the Kingdom of God, represent Jesus and His Kingdom in everything we do in this world. We. Are. Ambassadors. For. Christ. Amazing!

And what is our message? It’s the Good News of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God that Jesus Himself started preaching right off the bat. (That’s in Mark 1:14). And all we need to do to be a great ambassador for Christ is to proclaim the Gospel in its foundational three-fold bigness—*eternal life through His grace for whoever believes*. The stunning truth is, God could...without question...do all of that by Himself. But instead He invites every one of His adopted children—you and me—to be ambassadors of this incredibly good news. Amazingly, many Christians simply decline, by laziness or neglect or bad theology. In political terms, they exercise a “pocket veto,” not even bothering with it.

So, let’s recap these four incredible facets of bigness of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God! *Eternity big. Inclusive big. Grace big. Citizenship big*. That’s right—a Biblical four-fold bigness that refutes those elitist religionists who proclaim false limitations and barriers to people fully knowing and experiencing Jesus.

This amazing bigness strikes me to be like a whodunit mystery book or a TV crime series that always asks the “who,” the “what,” the “when,” the “where,” and the “how.” Once again, the brilliance of the Gospel.

- The *Who* is God...and you.
- The *What* is our eternal, loving fellowship in the Kingdom of God.
- The *When* is upon your very first belief in Christ and Him Crucified—and continuing forevermore.
- The *Where* is our ambassadorial *right here*, our proclaiming of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God *right here*, our invite *right here*...and then the fullness of the Kingdom of heaven *there*!
- The *How* is by the amazing, abundant grace of God that’s found to be completely sufficient for us.

So the core of the mystery is solved, of course, and fully revealed in the Word of God. Now the story is to be told to every ear who would hear. God promises that the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

And when we have limited proclaiming the Gospel to fellow members of our socioeconomic group...when we have falsely limited Christ to being just a good teacher...when we have falsely-limited Jesus’ target market for the atoning message of the Gospel...well, then, we are plainly limiting our participation in proclaiming the Gospel intended for whoever would believe. Sadly, many have chosen this path, either passively or actively, and have destined themselves to neglecting God’s plentiful harvest.

So, just how big is *your* Gospel? Are you letting others block or deter your fruitful ambassadorship for Christ? Of course, God will and would not hesitate to fill the gap left by your absence. And then you will miss some eternal blessings. Once more: just how big is *your* Gospel?

A&A: Application & Action

1. Eternity big. Inclusive big. Grace big. Citizenship big. Are you fully on board for each dimension of this four-fold bigness of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God? Be specific.

2. Now, look back to your answer to number 1. If you answered “yes” to that question, now answer this: Are your actions fully aligned with your answer? Ask yourself these questions, and write your answers honestly: “How many friends have I shared the gospel with in the past five years? How many coworkers have I shared the gospel with in the past five years? How many strangers have I shared the gospel with in the past five years?”

3. There are billions of people yet to have heard a clear message of the Gospel. Why have so many Christians been lulled or even seduced by others into a routinely limited or diluted proclaiming of the Gospel? Or is being Christ’s ambassador reserved for just a small group of selected believers?