

What comes to mind when someone responds to the gospel?

- No- "I need to think about" "this isn't for me"
- Yes- repentance
- Shame
- Freedom
- Baptism
- Alter calls
- Adoption

Why does it matter how we think about responding to the Gospel?

- If you're discipling it matters because you're leading people to respond to the gospel (either ultimately or daily)
- It's important that we know what the Bible says about how to respond
- It's important for your own personal walk
- Discern between spiritual platitudes and true belief

John 3:1-8 -about Nicodemus (religious leader, now-a-day equivalent of a pastor) confused about the teachings of Jesus. Jesus says that there is a mystery to where the Spirit goes, we can't control it.

John 3:9-15 -Jesus is kind to Nicodemus, he describes to Nicodemus that he will be lifted up and those who look to Jesus and believe will be saved.

Acts 16:25-31 -Paul tells the jailer to believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved. A person being saved is asking questions like "what must I do to be saved?" The confession that Jesus is Lord gives him authority over your life. (Acts 2:37-39 -repent and be baptized. Is baptism necessary for salvation? No it is a declaration of your salvation -a symbol of your proclamation that Jesus is Lord)

Romans 10:9-10 -confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

- What is the confession that Jesus is Lord mean? All authority, all power, all control over my life, a declaration that Jesus actually has authority over my life. To recognize that Jesus is Lord is the first fruit of salvation.
- Nicodemus who knew the Law, came to Jesus confused and not knowing how salvation "works". Jesus says the gospel is proclaimed, heard and then believed. This is mysterious, it's not a formula, the Spirit moves where it wills and gives life and new hearts to people.

Discipler Tips:

Don't assume that the person you're meeting with is a Christian

Give them space to ask hard questions, like Jesus did with Nicodemus

Be the person who asks hard questions

- What does it mean that Jesus is Lord?
- What does this mean for your life that Jesus is Lord?
- Has there been a moment where you have had a Romans 10:9-10 response?