

**Good News For Sinners 04**  
**Good News Is Best For Those Who Need It The Most**  
**By Bill Denton**

**INTRODUCTION**

**A. We've been talking about good news**

1. Why? Because sometimes good news gets lost in a myriad of other concerns
2. Basic good news: God loves you!
3. Forgiveness of sins and salvation is THE good news!

**B. We need to know one more thing about the good news of Jesus Christ**

1. Good news is best for the people who need it the most
2. This is one reason the good news gets such little emphasis in the church
  - a. there are too many Christians who think of themselves as "righteous"
  - b. when we don't keep our own problem of sin in perspective, we can't appreciate how good the good news is
  - c. too many Christians forget they were condemned sinners before they were forgiven and saved
3. The person who knows best how good the good news is, is the person who knows and remembers how bad it was to be lost
4. Today if you want to see who knows how very good the good news is, then find someone who know they are lost in sin and tell them how to be forgiven through Jesus

**C. I suspect that someone may think I'm just making this up**

1. Nothing could be further from the truth
2. In fact, scripture provides plenty of evidence that it's sinners who understand their problem who appreciate best the good news Jesus brings

**D. Today I want us to look at some of that evidence**

1. If you're not a Christian, hopefully you'll see just how good the news can be
2. If you are a Christian, hopefully you'll remember how good the good news still is for you

## I. A LOOK AT SOME PEOPLE WHO JUST DIDN'T GET IT

### A. Mark 2:3–12 (NAS) —

3 And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four men. 4 Being unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had dug an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying. 5 And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." 6 But some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?" 8 Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to them, "Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts? 9 "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk'? 10 "But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic, 11 "I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet and go home." 12 And he got up and immediately picked up the pallet and went out in the sight of everyone, so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

1. You would think a person would understand after witnessing such an event
2. The question about who can forgive sins was legitimate – only God forgives
3. He healed so that people would know he had the authority to forgive
4. But people are sometimes awfully hard-headed

### B. Mark 2:14–18 (NAS) —

14 As He passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting in the tax booth, and He said to him, "Follow Me!" And he got up and followed Him. 15 And it happened that He was reclining at the table in his house, and many tax collectors and sinners were dining with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many of them, and they were following Him. 16 When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that He was eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they said to His disciples, "Why is He eating and drinking with tax collectors and sinners?" 17 And hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners." 18 John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and they came and said to Him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?"

1. The same people couldn't figure out why Jesus hung around with the wrong crowd – he was associating with the worst of the worst
2. So Jesus had to tell them he came for the sinners, not the righteous – so if you think you're righteous, Jesus didn't come for you but for those other people
3. Amazingly, there are still people who think like this today

## II. A LOOK AT SOME PEOPLE WHO GOT IT

### A. John 4:25–30 (NAS) — (Remember the Samaritan woman at the well)

25 The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.” 26 Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.” 27 At this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, “What do You seek?” or, “Why do You speak with her?” 28 So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and said to the men, 29 “Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?” 30 They went out of the city, and were coming to Him.

1. This is a woman who got it – a sinner who understood this man, Jesus, could help her with spiritual truths unlike anyone else
2. You know she got because she immediately became an evangelist, one who tells good news to others
3. What a contrast to the scribes and Pharisees who didn’t get it at all

### B. John 8:3–11 (NAS) —

3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the center of the court, 4 they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act. 5 “Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?” 6 They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground. 7 But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.” 8 Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 When they heard it, they began to go out one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the center of the court. 10 Straightening up, Jesus said to her, “Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?” 11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more.”]

1. You don’t think this woman understood good news when she heard it?
2. In the matter of minutes, she went from as good as dead to forgiven
3. Of everyone in the crowd, she’s the only one who came away with something good on which to live the rest of her life

### C. 1 Timothy 1:12–16 (NAS) — (Paul’s personal testimony)

12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, 13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; 14 and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus. 15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the

world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. 16 Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

1. How do you make a case against yourself that you are the worst sinner of all?
2. I suspect that we could round up any number of people who were deeper into the gutter than Paul
3. The point isn't whether or not Paul was actually the worst sinner ever
4. The point is that Paul thought it about himself, and that's why the good news that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners was so good to Paul

D. Each of these is an example of someone who “got it” – who understood good news

1. They were totally unlike scribes and Pharisees who thought too much of themselves, considered themselves “righteous”, with little need of spiritual help
2. These were people in trouble, people who were sinners, people who were at odds with God
3. In Jesus they found some good news that changed their lives

## CONCLUSION

A. Do you need some good news?

1. Do you understand your problem of sin?
2. Do you know that Jesus died as a sacrifice for your sins, making forgiveness possible
3. Do you know how much the Father loves you, and wants to redeem you – if you think you need it the most, this news will be the best you ever heard
4. You can make that good news yours today – repent of your sins, confess your belief that Jesus is the Son of God, and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins, and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

B. Have you forgotten what the good news is all about?

1. Have you found yourself caught up in a false tale of personal goodness?
2. Have you turned faith in Jesus into a religion marginally related to him?
3. Remember what it's all about, then share that good news with others

C. Invitation