

Gospel Scenarios

- 1) You have a co-worker, Sal, who you talk to sometimes. He is in a low point in his life. He keeps making statements like: "I just need to change some things about myself", "I need to go to church more", "I need to get better friends," or "if I just work harder on myself I can change ____ situation". Yet as time goes by, he keeps trying and trying and only grows more and more depressed. He is either at a place of still thinking he just has to try harder, or giving up completely thinking he's just too bad off. How do you speak the Gospel into Sal's life?

- 2) You have a friend, Mark, who was at one point very immersed in church, Bible studies, etc...and you thought (and still do) he was a believer. He succumbed to temptation and had sex with his girlfriend, and now he feels horrible shame and guilt. He has pulled back from God and church entirely and continues spiraling down more and more sinful and destructive behavior. He has admitted to you that he doesn't feel lovable. He says it was easy to believe God loved him when he was a good person, but now he's just unlovable and therefore it doesn't matter what he does with his life. How do you counsel him and explain to him the love of Christ?

- 3) Your Christian friend, Erica, continues to talk about the growing workload she has with her classes. You can see the stress level growing in her as she has trouble sleeping and discusses her fears over not passing the upcoming test. How do you comfort her with the truth of the Gospel?

- 4) Your Christian friend, Tim, shares with you his frustration at his parents for not coming to hear him play in last weekend's symphonic band concert. He then goes on to share how time and time again they seem to favor his younger brother over him, and never hesitate to go to his basketball games. He talks about how his constant attempts to make his parents proud and to feel their love always go unnoticed by them. You sense a real bitterness and resentment in him toward his parents. How do you gently point Tim to the Gospel to help him in these relationships?

- 5) **You have noticed lately that your Christian friend, Jenny, has really been putting others down with her words. Whether it be “just teasing” her friends when she hangs out with them or talking about their “stupid” mistakes when they are not around, she portrays this “I am better than that” or “I would never do that” attitude. You notice her particularly putting down her boyfriend; listing the idiotic things he says or does. How do you confront Jenny with the realities of the Gospel?**

- 6) **In the last few months you have gotten to know Andrew, a Junior Business Major who lives a few houses down from you. The more you hang out with him and get to know him better the more you notice how much he enjoys all things alcoholic. In particular, you notice that the times he is having a bad day are the same times when he is returning from the Power and Light District completely drunk. How is the Gospel the answer for Andrew, and how do you present that message to him?**