Doctrine Into Life: Exercise Seeing It Through

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

Telling the Gospel Through Tracing Biblical Images

The *goal* is to discover afresh the unity of the Scriptures.

The *task* is to view and then express the story of redemption in Christ from the Old Testament to Jesus, from Jesus through the sending of the Spirit to the Day of Christ.

The *twist* is that we want to do this through lesser used but still Biblically valid images and motifs.

Why? So we can communicate the same eternal truth in fresh ways, and from many angles to captivate more people with the message?

To find new yet ancient ways into the gospel narrative. To be able to turn doctrine into life before people even know they got a big dose of doctrine!

Trace your image through the Scriptures and discover how the whole narrative of God's redemption in Christ can be told through it. Dance along this golden thread!

Choose at least ten passages where this image is found. (You can stretch the image if you wish, e.g. door=gate=entry=way. Prepare to present to classmates on Wednesday (each student will have about 10-15 minutes with discussion).

Telling the Gospel Through Tracing Biblical Images

1) Cup

1) Psalm 16:5 (ESV)

5 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

2) Psalm 11:5-7 (ESV)

- 5 The Lord tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.
- 6 Let him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.

7 For the Lord is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.

3) Psalm 75:8 (ESV)

8 For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed, and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs.

4) Isaiah 51:17 (ESV)

17 Wake yourself, wake yourself, stand up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the Lord the cup of his wrath, who have drunk to the dregs the bowl, the cup of staggering.

5) Mark 10:38 (ESV)

38 Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"

6) Mark 14:22-24 (ESV)

- 22 And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body."
- 23 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it.
- 24 And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.

7) Mark 14:36 (ESV)

36 And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

8) 1 Corinthians 10:16 (ESV)

16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

9) Psalm 23:5 (ESV)

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my

cup overflows.

10) Psalm 116:13 (ESV)

13 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,

William Lane's Commentary on Mark:

At every Passover, there are four cups of red wine. They symbolize the four-fold promise of God's mercy to his people as they were groaning under Egyptian rule. In Exodus 6, the LORD told Moses:

I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. Say therefore to the people of Israel, 1) 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and 2) I will deliver you from slavery to them, and 3) I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. 4) I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God.

The first two cups were blessed and shared before the main meal of the bitter herbs, the stewed fruit and the roasted lamb. Then, after the supper, the father would lift the third cup, the cup of redemption, and make the prayer of thanksgiving on behalf of all. So we read that after the supper Jesus took the cup and gave thanks. The traditional prayer in Jesus' day was something like this: "May the All-merciful One make us worthy of the days of the Messiah and of the life of the world to come. He brings the salvation of his king. He shows covenant-faithfulness to his Anointed, to David and his seed forever. He makes peace in his heavenly places. May he secure peace for us and for all Israel. Amen"

From Gerrit Dawson, Discovering Jesus

Now the third cup was the cup of redemption. The LORD promised to redeem his people with mighty acts of judgment. Indeed, he parted the waters of the Red Sea so that Israel could pass through as on dry land. But when the Egyptians pursued, the LORD closed the waters and they were drowned. Israel's redemption was Egypt's judgment. It was with this cup, the cup of redeeming judgment, that Jesus added to the ancient ritual with words of his own: "This is the blood of my covenant, which is poured out for many."

Redemption involves judgment. And Jesus would drink the cup of judgment for us, that he might offer us the cup of redemption in his blood. The wrath of God upon sin swirled in the cup which he drank in the Garden and on the cross. So that the cup he gave to his disciples might be the cup of blessing. This cup, the third cup of Passover, would now and forever be the sign of the new covenant, a covenant enacted and sealed in his blood. His blood poured out would be for the forgiveness of sins.

Telling the Gospel Through Tracing Biblical Images

2) Garden

- 1) Genesis 2:15 (ESV)
- 15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.
- 2) Genesis 3:8-10 (ESV)
- 8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.
- 9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"
- 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."
- 3) Jeremiah 31:3 (ESV)
- 3 the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.
- 4) Jeremiah 31:12 (ESV)
- 12 They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more.
- 5) Jeremiah 31:33-34 (ESV)
- 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
- 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."
- 6) Ezekiel 36:26-7 (ESV)
- 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.
- 7) Ezekiel 36:35 (ESV)
- 35 And they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.'
- 8) John 18:1 (ESV)
- 1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley,

where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.

- 9) Matthew 27:33 (ESV)
- 33 And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull),
- 10) Matthew 27:33-34 (ESV)
- 33 And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull),
- 34 they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.
- 11) Luke 23:43 (ESV)
- 43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."
- 12) John 19:41 (ESV)
- 41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.

13) John 20:15-18 (ESV)

- 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."
- 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).
- 17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"
- 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

14) Revelation 2:7 (ESV)

7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

Telling the Gospel Through Tracing Biblical Images

3) Temple/Tabernacle

- 1) 1 Samuel 4:21 (ESV)
- 21 And she named the child Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel!" because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband.

2) 2 Samuel 7:12-16 (ESV)

- 12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.
- 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
- 14 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men,
- 15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.
- 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.' "

3) 1 Kings 8:27-30 (ESV)

- 27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!
- 28 Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O Lord my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you this day,
- 29 that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place.
- 30 And listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

4) 1 Kings 8:41-43 (ESV)

- 41 "Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for your name's sake
- 42 (for they shall hear of your great name and your mighty hand, and of your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this house,
- 43 hear in heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name.

5) 1 Chronicles 29:16 (ESV)

16 O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own.

- 6) Psalm 27:4 (ESV)
- 4 One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.
- 7) Psalm 48:9 (ESV)
- 9 We have thought on your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.
- 8) Psalm 84:1-10 (ESV)
- 1 To the choirmaster: according to The Gittith. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
- 2 My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.
- 3 Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
- 4 Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Selah
- 5 Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
- 6 As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.
- 7 They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion.
- 8 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah
- 9 Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed!
- 10 For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
- 9) Psalm 27:4 (ESV)
- 4 One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.
- 10) Psalm 48:9 (ESV)
- 9 We have thought on your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.
- 11) Psalm 84:1-10 (ESV)
- 1 To the choirmaster: according to The Gittith. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
- 2 My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.
- 3 Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
- 4 Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Selah
- 5 Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
- 6 As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.
- 7 They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion.
- 8 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah
- 9 Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed!
- 10 For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in

the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

12) Habakkuk 2:20 (ESV)

20 But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him."

13) Haggai 2:4-9 (ESV)

- 4 Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the Lord. Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the Lord. Work, for I am with you, declares the Lord of hosts,
- 5 according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not.
- 6 For thus says the Lord of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land.
- 7 And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts.
- 8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts.
- 9 The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts.'

14) Malachi 3:1 (ESV)

1 "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

15) Matthew 12:6 (ESV)

6 I tell you, something greater than the temple is here.

16) Matthew 21:12 (ESV)

12 And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons.

17) Matthew 27:51 (ESV)

51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

18) John 2:19-21 (ESV)

- 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."
- 20 The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?"
- 21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

19) 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (ESV)

16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

20) 1 Corinthians 6:19 (ESV)

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,

21) 1 Corinthians 9:13 (ESV)

13 Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings?

22) Ephesians 2:21 (ESV)

21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

23) Revelation 21:22 (ESV)

22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

Telling the Gospel Through Tracing Biblical Images

4) River

- 1) Genesis 2:10 (ESV)
- 10 A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers.
- 2) Exodus 2:5 (ESV)
- 5 Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it.
- 3) Exodus 2:10 (ESV)
- 10 When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."
- 4) Joshua 3:13 (ESV)
- 13 And when the soles of the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap."
- 5) Joshua 3:17 (ESV)
- 17 Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.
- 6)Psalm 36:8 (ESV)
- 8 They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.
- 7) Psalm 46:4 (ESV)
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 8) Psalm 65:9 (ESV)
- 9 You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it.
- 9) Psalm 66:6 (ESV)
- 6 He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There did we rejoice in him,
- 10) Psalm 78:16 (ESV)
- 16 He made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

- 11) Psalm 78:44 (ESV)
- 44 He turned their rivers to blood, so that they could not drink of their streams.
- 12) Psalm 107:33 (ESV)
- 33 He turns rivers into a desert, springs of water into thirsty ground,
- 13) Isaiah 41:18 (ESV)
- 18 I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.
- 14) Isaiah 43:2 (ESV)
- 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.
- 15) Isaiah 43:19 (ESV)
- 19 Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
- 16) Isaiah 48:18 (ESV)
- 18 Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea;
- 17) Isaiah 66:12 (ESV)
- 12 For thus says the Lord: "Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip, and bounced upon her knees.
- 18) Ezekiel 47:1-2 (ESV)
- 1 Then he brought me back to the door of the temple, and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar.
- 2 Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east; and behold, the water was trickling out on the south side.
- 19) Ezekiel 47:6-7 (ESV)
- 6 And he said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he led me back to the bank of the river.
- 7 As I went back, I saw on the bank of the river very many trees on the one side and on the other.
- 20) Ezekiel 47:12 (ESV)
- 12 And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing."

21) Mark 1:5 (ESV)

5 And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

22) John 4:13-14 (ESV)

13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,

14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

23) John 7:37-39 (ESV)

37 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.

38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' "

39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

24) Revelation 22:1-2 (ESV)

1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb

2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Telling the Gospel Through Tracing Biblical Images

5) Face/Countenance/Shine

1) • Numbers 6:25

25 The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:

2) • Psalm 31:16

16 Make thy face to shine upon thy servant: save me for thy mercies' sake.

3) • Psalm 80:3

3 Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

4) • Psalm 80:7

7 Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

◆ Psalm 80:19

19 Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved. To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm of Asaph.

5) • Psalm 104:15

15 And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart.

6) • Psalm 119:135

135 Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes.

7) • Ecclesiastes 8:1

1 Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.

8) * Daniel 9:17

17 Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake.

9) Matthew 17:1-8 (ESV)

1 And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

10) Luke 9:28-32 (ESV)

28 Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they

became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.

11) Luke 24:50-53 (ESV)

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

12) 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:6 (ESV)

Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

This verse has shining face in the Greek

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.

But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing.

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

13) Revelation 1:12-16 (ESV)

Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

Telling the Gospel Through Tracing Biblical Images

6) Oil

But first, let's dig in. Oil in the Middle East was not always petroleum. In Biblical days, the oil was olive oil, and it was a staple of life. Once the oil dripped from the pulp of the harvested olives, it could be burned for lighting, or baked in cooking. Olive oil was used to promote healing, or it could be mixed with perfumes and spices to make a rich cosmetic ointment. Different mixtures of oil and spices could be used in preparing bodies for burial. Oil could be exchanged to seal covenants. It was a symbol of having entered the land and life of bounty. Anointing with oil could also set something apart for special purposes.

1) Genesis 28:18-22 (ESV)

- 18 So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.
- 19 He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.
- 20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear,
- 21 so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God,
- 22 and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."

2) Psalm 104:15 (ESV)

15 and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart.

3) Psalm 92:10-11 (ESV)

- 10 But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox; you have poured over me fresh oil.
- 11 My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.

4) Psalm 23:5-6 (ESV)

- 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

5) Psalm 133 (ESV)

- 1 A Song of Ascents. Of David. Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!
- 2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!
- 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has

commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

6) Exodus 28:41 (ESV)

41 And you shall put them on Aaron your brother, and on his sons with him, and shall anoint them and ordain them and consecrate them, that they may serve me as priests.

7) Exodus 29:7 (ESV)

7 You shall take the anointing oil and pour it on his head and anoint him.

8) 1 Samuel 10:1 (ESV)

1 Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head and kissed him and said, "Has not the Lord anointed you to be prince over his people Israel? And you shall reign over the people of the Lord and you will save them from the hand of their surrounding enemies. And this shall be the sign to you that the Lord has anointed you to be prince over his heritage.

9) 1 Samuel 16:13 (ESV)

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

10) 1 Kings 19:16 (ESV)

16 And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place.

11) Isaiah 61:1-3 (ESV)

- 1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
- 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;
- 3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

12) Luke 4:21 (ESV)

21 And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

13) Matthew 26:6-13 (ESV)

- 6 Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper,
- 7 a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table.
- 8 And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste?
- 9 For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor."
- 10 But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me.
- 11 For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me.

- 12 In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial.
- 13 Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her."

Smell of a king when arrested!

14) Acts 10:38 (ESV)

38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

15) 2 Corinthians 1:20-22 (ESV)

- 20 For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.
- 21 And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us,
- 22 and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Telling the Gospel Through Tracing Biblical Images

7) Smell/Aroma/Incense

1) Genesis 8:20-22 (ESV)

- 20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.
- 21 And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.
- 22 While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

2) Exodus 29:18 (ESV)

18 and burn the whole ram on the altar. It is a burnt offering to the Lord. It is a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the Lord.

3) Leviticus 2:12 (ESV)

12 As an offering of firstfruits you may bring them to the Lord, but they shall not be offered on the altar for a pleasing aroma.

4) Exodus 30:34-38 (ESV)

- 34 The Lord said to Moses, "Take sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum, sweet spices with pure frankincense (of each shall there be an equal part),
- 35 and make an incense blended as by the perfumer, seasoned with salt, pure and holy.
- 36 You shall beat some of it very small, and put part of it before the testimony in the tent of meeting where I shall meet with you. It shall be most holy for you.
- 37 And the incense that you shall make according to its composition, you shall not make for yourselves. It shall be for you holy to the Lord.
- 38 Whoever makes any like it to use as perfume shall be cut off from his people."

5) Leviticus 16:12 (ESV)

12 And he shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before the Lord, and two handfuls of sweet incense beaten small, and he shall bring it inside the veil

6) Revelation 5:8 (ESV)

8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

7) Revelation 8:3-4 (ESV)

3 And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne,

4 and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel.

8) 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 (ESV)

14 But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.

15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing,

16 to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?

9) Ephesians 5:2 (ESV)

2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

I think it's time for Christians to wash off our worldly deodorant and start to let Christ ooze out of our pores again. I envision a church full of people who stink like Christians. I envisions us giving off:

- The hot smell of people who've let tears flow in their prayers with each other.
- The athletic smell of people who've been out in the city, blessing the world with the love of Christ, getting all stinky with caring for other people's needs.
- The alluring smell of people who love one another openly, truly, deeply.
- The unmistakable scent of people who've let themselves go in worship, abandoning their hearts and souls in the fellowship of the unashamed.
- The sweet, incense smell of people who've been wallowing in the Word, studying and adoring until the Scriptures just reek out of them.
- The smell of spring time in heaven that sometimes repels but more often attracts people who have lived in the wasteland of this world. Our being covered in Christ is the scent of their deepest longing come true.

I want people around this city to say, "Whew. First Presbyterians. Those people smell...like Christians!"

Telling the Gospel Through Tracing Biblical Images

8) Gate/Door

O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel; that opens, and no man shuts, and shuts, and no man opens: come and bring the prisoner out of the prison house, and him that sits in darkness, and the shadow of death.

- 1) "He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden, he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life" (Genesis 3: 24).
- 2) "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the **doorposts** of your house and on your **gates**. (Deuteronomy 6: 6-9).
- 3) Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! (Ps. 24: 7-8)
- 4) Psalm 107:10-11; 15-16
 There were those who dwelt in darkness and in the shadow of death, Prisoners in misery and chains,
 Because they had rebelled against the words of God
 And spurned the counsel of the Most High...
 Let them give thanks to the Lord for His lovingkindness,
 And for His wonders to the sons of men!
 For He has shattered gates [doors] of bronze
 And cut bars of iron asunder.

5) Psalm 118:19-20 (ESV)

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

- 6) "And I will place on his shoulder the Key of the House of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open" (Isaiah 22:22).
- 7) "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few." (Mt. 7: 13-14).
- 8) "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture" (John 10: 9).
- 9) So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Hebrews 13:12
- 10) "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forever more, and I have the keys of Death and Hades" (Rev. 1: 17-18).
- 11) "Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut" (Rev. 3: 8).
- 12) By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. Revelation 21:24-25 (ESV)
- 13) Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. Revelation 22:14 (ESV)

Telling the Gospel Through Tracing Biblical Images

9) Tree/Vine

1) Genesis 2:9 (ESV)

And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

2) Genesis 2:15-17 (ESV)

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

2a) 2 Samuel 18:9 (ESV)

9 And Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak, and his head caught fast in the oak, and he was suspended between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on.

33 And the king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And as he went, he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

3) Psalm 1:1-3 (ESV)

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

4) Jeremiah 17:7-10 (ESV)

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.

He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

"I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

5) Matthew 3:10 (ESV)

Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good

fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

5) Matthew 12:33-37 (ESV)

"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.

I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

6) Galatians 3:13 (ESV)

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—

7) 1 Peter 2:24 (ESV)

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

8) Galatians 5:22 (ESV)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

9) Revelation 22:1-5 (ESV)

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.

They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Telling the Gospel Through Tracing Biblical Images

10) Hand(s)

Exodus 13:14 (ESV)

14 And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

Deuteronomy 7:8 (ESV)

8 but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 32:39 (ESV)

39 "'See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

Leviticus 9:22 (ESV)

22 Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them, and he came down from offering the sin offering and the burnt offering and the peace offerings.

1 Peter 3:22 (ESV)

22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

2 Samuel 24:14 (ESV)

14 Then David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but let me not fall into the hand of man."

2 Chronicles 20:6 (ESV)

6 and said, "O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you.

Psalm 16:11 (ESV)

11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 31:5 (ESV)

5 Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

Psalm 31:15 (ESV)

15 My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!

Psalm 92:4 (ESV)

4 For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

Psalm 95:7 (ESV)

7 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today, if you hear his voice,

Psalm 139:10 (ESV)

10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

Isaiah 48:13 (ESV)

13 My hand laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I call to them, they stand forth together.

Isaiah 49:16 (ESV)

16 Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.

Isaiah 59:1 (ESV)

1 Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;

Isaiah 60:2 (ESV)

2 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

Isaiah 65:2 (ESV)

2 I spread out my hands all the day to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices;

Luke 5:13 (ESV)

13 And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him.

Luke 13:13 (ESV)

13 And he laid his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God.

Luke 23:46 (ESV)

46 Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

Luke 24:50 (ESV)

50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them.

John 10:28 (ESV)

28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

John 20:27 (ESV)

27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."

Acts 4:27-30 (ESV)

27 for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,

28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness.

30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

Hebrews 10:31 (ESV)

31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

1 Peter 3:22 (ESV)

22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

1 Peter 5:6 (ESV)

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,

Revelation 1:16 (ESV)

16 In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.