



Romans

Right With God

Everyone's A Preacher

Lesson Thirty-Six

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

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Everyone's A Preacher

The beginning of our Scripture lesson for today is central to the whole letter of Paul to the church at Rome. This is his purpose for writing as plainly stated as it can be. Paul insists that God saves people by grace. The Jews may not have gotten it, however, Paul says, it is very obvious in Scripture. And, he is going to make that clear. Read Romans 10:14-21.

Paul begins this teaching with a series of questions. First, how can they call on someone they have not believed in? He doesn't tell us who "they" are. We can assume that it is all people. He has been and will be discussing the Jews, and this obviously applies to them, but it also applies to everyone who ever lived. So, first Paul says that it is not likely that anyone would pray or ask forgiveness from someone in whom they have no faith.*

Second, he asks, how can anyone believe in someone who they know nothing about, someone they have never heard of? The idea here is that Jesus is present in those who witness and the knowledge of God comes by hearing from someone who not only represents Jesus, but who is filled with Jesus. If an unbeliever hears a true message from God, it must be spoken... preached...by someone who has been the receiver of that message. It must be someone whose life has been changed by the Good News.

Third, he asks, how can they hear unless one of these witnesses, filled with the Spirit of God, talks to them...or preaches to them? Notice that he says that they must hear. In Paul's time there was no written New Testament available, so you had to "hear" the Good News. So for people to hear, there had to be someone to preach to them.

Fourth, he asks, how can they preach unless they are sent. The word preach here is not the same as Sunday morning sermons. The actual word is like our word "herald." It speaks of someone who has been given a message to deliver, and they obediently carry the message to whoever the one who provided the message directs them. What we hear Paul say here is that God has given a message. Those who receive that message are responsible to carry it to others. On the other hand, if the message is not from God, it is worthless.

We can see Paul building on words here. He begins with "believe in," and moves on from "believe in" to "hearing," and from "hearing" to "preaching," and from "preaching" to "being sent." It's like he is building a tower with building blocks of our responsibility to witness.

As is his normal practice, he drives his point home by quoting Scripture. Verse 15 is a quote from Isaiah 52:7. Now, we might not think of the feet as being a beautiful part of the body.

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However, since travel in Paul's day was by walking, those who received good news normally got it from someone who walked over to bring it. So, to those who got the good news, the feet that brought it were beautiful.

In verse sixteen, Paul says that some did not receive...did not accept...the Good News. He quotes Isaiah 53:1 where Isaiah asked who had believed the message he had preached? Then, in verse seventeen, he reviews his previous argument, faith comes when you hear, but unless the message is from Jesus, it is not helpful...it offers no hope.

Then in verses eighteen through twenty-one, Paul asks additional questions about Israel's disbelief and answers them all from Scripture. We can sum these verses up by saying, Israel should have heard and should have believed. They really have no excuse.

Scripture Memory: “Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ” Romans 10:17. (NIV) Or “Before you trust, you have to listen. But unless Christ’s Word is preached, there is nothing to listen to.” *The Message*

*Underlined statements in this Teacher’s Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher’s Guide.

For the Teacher:

Lesson Goal: To guide the student to understand that God's will is for all Christians to be God's heralds.

1. A reading of this passage from *The Message* makes it much clearer. "But how can people call for help if they don't know who to trust? And how can they know who to trust if they haven't heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them? And how is anyone going to tell them, unless someone is sent to do it. That is why Scripture exclaims, 'A sight to take your breath away! Grand processions of people telling all the good things of God!' But not everyone is ready for this, ready to see and hear and act. Isaiah asked what we all ask at one time or another: 'Does anyone care, God? Is anyone listening and believing a word of it?' The point is: Before you trust, you have to listen. But unless Christ's word is preached, there is nothing to listen to." Romans 10:14-17 *The Message*
2. Teachers should be careful with this passage. It can get very confusing and it has been interpreted in numerous ways. This lesson writer has chosen to take a well accepted, conservative interpretation of the verses with the hope that your students will see the major teaching here. That is, people can come up with all kinds of excuses as to why they don't believe the Good News. Paul wants to show them up for what they are...just excuses.
3. You, the teacher, should see in these verses an affirmation of your role as a teacher of God's Word, the Good News of Jesus Christ. You should feel good about the fact that you have been sent as a herald of God to share the Good News. There could be no more important responsibility in this world.
5. Please help your students to realize that verses fourteen and fifteen are not exclusively about preachers who stand behind pulpits on Sunday morning. Those ministers do “preach” the Good News. However, Paul is talking here about **every** Christian who is motivated by God's Spirit to share what God has done for him or her, and to share the Good News that Jesus came, lived perfectly, died as a sacrifice for our sins, conquered death when God raised Him from the dead and lives today, sitting at the right hand of God. That is the Good News, and since Jesus came into your life, when you had faith in Him, you have become a herald of His Good News.

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Student Worksheet

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=First, Paul says that it is not likely that anyone would _____ or ask _____ from someone in whom they have no _____.

=Second, how can anyone _____ in someone who they know _____ about, someone they have never _____ of?

=Third, how can they hear unless one of these _____, filled with the Spirit of God, talks to them...or _____ to them?

=Fourth, God has given a _____. Those who receive that message are responsible to carry it to _____.

=In verses eighteen through twenty-one, we find that Israel should have _____ and should have _____. They really have _____ excuse.

Scripture Memory: "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ" Romans 10:17. (NIV) Or "Before you trust, you have to listen. But unless Christ's Word is preached, there is nothing to listen to." *The Message*

A Roman Road to Salvation:

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Everyone is a sinner and needs salvation.

Romans 6:23a "For the wages of sin is death." The law of God is unchangeable. If someone sins the penalty must be paid, the payment is death.

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us." God loves us so much, according to John 3:16, that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins.

Romans 6:23b "But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." The penalty for sin is spiritual death, but God, through the death of Jesus on the cross, took the penalty for the sins of all people, and now everyone can have eternal life. See also, II Corinthians 5:21

Romans 10:9, 10 "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." To personally receive the gift of God, eternal life in Christ Jesus, you trust God to be what He says He is. Believing that "God raised Him (Jesus) from the dead" is to accept all that the Bible says about God and His Son, Jesus. Then you speak (confess) the words, "Jesus is Lord," as a statement of faith. Believing "with your heart" means that you believe with your mind and with everything that you are.

Romans 10:13 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." You have the promise of God Himself that if you do what Romans 10:9, 10 says, you will become God's child and have eternal life.

Romans 12:1, 2 "I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." Becoming a Christian is a life-long act of faith and worship.