



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Matthew 14–28 Sermon Series

Supports Session 3: Following Jesus

Sermon Title: “Faith Comes by Hearing” (Romans 10:10-17)

Connection to Session 3

Session 3 is a high point in Matthew’s gospel. Jesus asked His disciples who they thought He was, and Peter famously confesses Jesus as the Christ.

This sermon outline emphasizes both the necessity of the message and the task of the messenger. To profess Jesus as the Christ is also to enlist in His Great Commission mandate to take the gospel to the nations. This passage also confronts many modern evangelism techniques that de-emphasize the importance of declaring the good news to people who have not yet heard of Christ. Saving faith is dependent upon a declared message from a messenger who has been sent by God. As God’s people, we declare and send this message to the ends of the earth.

Introduction/Opening

There’s an old poem titled, “For want of a nail.” Though the poem’s origins are uncertain, it reached widespread circulation in America when Benjamin Franklin published it in his 1758 “Poor Richard’s Almanack.” This poem has often been synonymous with patriotism and every person “doing their part.”

The poem emphasizes that something small, like a horseshoe nail, can have great consequences. The chain reaction of the loss of the nail, show, horse, rider, message, battle, and eventually the war shows that even little things can have significant outcomes. In Romans 10, Paul used the same rhetorical device of consequence when establishing the importance of the gospel message. The gospel must be believed by every person, or they are doomed to an eternity separated from God. But the gospel must be heard, and the message must be declared by one sent. Therefore, every believer, no matter how small their contribution, must participate in the world-wide effort of the Great Commission by going and sending the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Outline

A Universal Message (Romans 10:10-13)

Romans 10:10-13 explains the universal appeal of the gospel message. Salvation in Jesus Christ is not by works or external religion, but a matter of the heart. Verse 10 explains that salvation comes from trust in Jesus as Savior. It is internal faith in Christ expressed in a public declaration of Jesus as Lord. Some commentators believe this is an ancient baptism formula, by which the candidate would publicly state their faith in Christ to the congregation.

This gospel message is for all kinds of people (11-13). It is not a message exclusively for the Jews. It is not a new plan of God for the Gentiles. It is the same plan of salvation God has always ordained. In verse 11, Paul quoted Isaiah 28:16 to reinforce that faith in Jesus has always been God’s plan for salvation.

This is great news! In Christ, God has made salvation available to anyone who will call upon Him. No matter your background, you can call upon Jesus for salvation.

A Unique Messenger (Romans 10:14-16)

Though the gospel is good news for all nations, there is a problem: Not everyone has heard the good news! Paul rhetorically asked the reader to consider how the gospel is going to reach the nations (vv. 14–15). It is impossible for someone to call upon Jesus for salvation if the person has never heard of Christ. Therefore, someone must go and tell them of the free grace that is available to them in Christ!

One thing often missed in this passage is that the person bringing the good news must be “sent.” This means that even if you aren’t the individual who brings the gospel to the nations, you have an important role in “sending.” Every believer is called to the work of going and sending. John Piper famously said that every Christian has three options: “Go, send, or disobey.” You may be called to a faraway land, or you may be called across the street. You may be called to encourage a missionary on the front lines, or you may be called to support another Christian in their evangelism. Regardless of the context, every believer should embrace their dual role as a goer and a sender.

An Unequaled Savior (Romans 10:17)

Verse 17 summarizes the heart of this passage. Salvation is freely offered in Jesus, but one must call upon Christ and Christ alone. Faith comes “from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ” (v. 17). This passage highlights two truths that must be emphasized in the church today:

One, Jesus is able to save anyone. There is no one whose sin is so great that Christ cannot save. There is no one so lost that Jesus cannot redeem. There is no one who desires God’s grace that will ever be turned down. Everyone who calls upon Christ will be saved (Romans 10:13).

Two, a person must call upon Christ to be saved! There is no one “automatically in.” A person may attend church frequently, give generously, serve regularly, or have family who are believers, but that is no guarantee of salvation. Each person, in their own heart, must call upon Christ for their personal salvation. Have you believed in the Lord Jesus Christ for your salvation?

Application Points:

- *People near and far need the gospel.* The gospel must go to the ends of the earth, but it must also be “heard” by those near us. I must see everyone as someone in need of the Savior.
- *People near and far need a messenger.* Through the local church, God sends messengers to people near and far. Am I doing my part, both in “going” and “sending?”
- *People near and far must call upon Christ.* Never assume you are “automatically in” when it comes to matters of eternity. Unless you have personally called upon Jesus for salvation, you are lost in your sin. Have you personally trusted in Christ for your salvation? Make sure today that you know Christ and that you have believed in the true gospel of grace.

Conclusion:

Consider your heart. Are you saved? Have you, from the heart, called upon Christ for salvation? God’s grace is available to people from every corner of the earth. But someone must take the message to them! Let the church take seriously its command to go and send. We have the greatest news in the world, and we must take every effort to take it to the world.

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