

The Greatest Story (Part 43):

That They May Be Saved

Romans 10

Memory Verses: Romans 10:1, 9-10, 13

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

Today we are taking a different approach to our worship service. This morning we are obviously gathered together in a **circle**; in a different atmosphere. We are going to worship a little, pray a lot, and dive into Romans chapter 10 as a family this morning.

Our transition **campaign** is EACH ONE REACH ONE. We know that in order to grow our church and be ready to launch Stone Creek Church we must reach people for the Gospel and deny ourselves for the Glory of God. In order for us to reach people we have been challenged this month to really step up to the plate as a church family. We have to be prepared to launch a new church at the end of this year.

So two weeks ago Don challenged us through the book of Acts to give as unto the Lord. If we are covenant partners and a part of this faith family then you have a responsibility to give. Our giving determines in a lot of ways the effectiveness of our ministry to reach people with the Gospel. The measure of your gift is between you and the Lord, but as for me and the other leaders of this church we have pledged to give at least 10 percent of our income and we are hoping that you would also be challenged to give at least that much. Next week on November 3rd we will be taking up a faith offering where we will see just how much we can give in one week and see what God can do with that offering to plant a seed for the church launch.... please be praying about what God wants you to give next week and what amount of your monthly income you are committed to giving to the ministry of Stone Creek Church.

If you were able to be a part of our Quarterly Conference on October 16th you were also challenged to make these next three months a strong push to come into our new church launch running through the finish line; not just in your giving but also in your reaching. We must reach people. You have been challenge this month to write down three names or three families that you know need a church family. We have discussed ways to invite these people to non-threatening events over the course of the next three months in order to begin relationships. Above that you have been challenged to intentionally begin a strong relationship with at least one of these people.

So the questions this morning that we are praying over and reflecting upon are.... 1) How much will you commit to giving each

month? 2) How much is God impressing upon your family to give to the faith offering next week. 3) What three people have you written down that need a church family? 4) What events will you invite these three people or families too over the course of the next three months? 5) What person are you intentionally beginning a relationship with as to win them to Christ?

These last three are the ones I want to talk and pray about specifically this morning as we look at this chapter. And I want us to focus on this one question... **What Are You Willing To Do To See The Lost Saved?**

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we see here is... **A Desire To See The Lost Saved Is A Matter Of The Heart.** Look at **Romans 10:1**. It's about a heart's desire to see the lost saved. In order for us to understand what our heart's desire should be it would make sense to look to Jesus. What is Christ's heart towards the lost? Well if we look back at **John 3:16** – for God so loved the world that he gave his son to see it saved. Jesus' desire is that he is willing to give his life to see everyone saved. So.. what should our heart be towards the lost? It should be similar to Christ... that we would be willing to give our lives to see them saved... that we would have an overwhelming desire to see them saved. In other words... we should have a willingness to do what can be done. This means we spend our lives praying for the lost, pursuing intentional relationships with the lost, and serving the lost for the sake of the Gospel.

What does it say about our hearts if we aren't doing what can be done to see the lost saved? It says that we don't have a heart after Christ. It says that we don't care about people dying without Christ. It says that we aren't putting first things first. Where is your heart for the lost?

Let's spend some time in prayer, praying for heart change concerning the lost. Let's pray that we would truly have a desire to see the lost saved.

The second thing we see here is... **The Lost Will Not Be Rejected By Christ... Will They Be Rejected By You?** Look at **Romans 10:9-13**.

The recipe is simple... confess and believe. Everyone who believes will not be shamed... they will not be condemned or rejected. Jesus isn't rejecting anyone who comes to him and believes; regardless if they are Jews or Gentiles. It doesn't matter who you are, if you put your trust in the salvation of Jesus Christ you will be saved.

The other thing to notice is that since all who believe will be accepted by Christ then you can be assured that your efforts to see the lost saved are not in vain. Your job is to share the Gospel... at that point if they believe they will be saved. You are fighting a winning battle. The question is will you fight?

So... a question for us is; "how is refusing to reach the lost a rejection of the lost?" Simple... if know that Christ won't reject them and still refuse to reach them... we are the ones who are rejecting them. So... how many have you rejected? Who are you currently rejecting?

Let's spend some time in prayer seeking repentance for the times we've rejected to reach the lost. Let's pray that we would reach the lost knowing that they will not be rejected by Christ.

Lastly, **It Is Your Responsibility To Preach The Good News To The Lost**. Look at **Romans 10:14-17**. In order to be saved they must believe and in order to believe they must hear. In order to hear someone must tell them the good news. So... Who's responsibility is it to tell them? It's ours. It's everyone who has been called to follow Christ. We have all been called to be fishers of men. All of us are called to preach to the lost. This is not the job of the pastor, missionary, or evangelist... those are giftings that enhance the effort... but regardless of what measure your gifting is you have been called to reach people with the Gospel. And... it doesn't take an extra gifting to begin a relationship with someone because you love them and desire to see them come to Christ.

Once we realize our responsibility and accept the job... what are we to tell them? Simple... the word of God. You already have in your hands the word of God. You don't have to come up with something new or something clever. When the time comes to share... share the Word. This makes sharing very easy.

If it's a calling, a gifting, and easy with the Word... then what is the cause of so many Christians not seeing reaching the lost as part of their responsibility? The three people you have written down in your Bible, on your fridge, wherever you have put those names... listen... they are your responsibility. You have been called to reach them. The One you are called to reach through intentional discipleship... they are your responsibility. If it was someone else's responsibility then they would have been reached by now. So... **What Are You Willing To Do To See The Lost Saved?**

Let's spend another time of prayer for a heart of intentional discipleship. Let's pray that we would see reaching people as our responsibility. Pray for the three you have adopted to see reached. Pray for the One you have a responsibility to intentionally disciple. And let us pray for opportunities to share the Gospel to these and to begin relationships with them.

Conclusion

If you are a covenant partner and a family member of our faith family we are asking you to join with us in committing to this vision. Look

at the EACH ONE REACH ONE COMMITMENT card. This is what we are saying we need to do in order to launch Stone Creek Church. We are asking you to get off the sideline and get into the fight for the souls of our friends. Would you make a commitment to this vision today?

This vision is rolling. We will have an Outreach Opportunity tonight at the Sloanes – Neighborhood Halloween Party. We are hoping that you will come but only if you can bring a friend or a family. All the details are in the worship guide.