

## **Our Role(s) in Others' Faith**

Every single day at work, in our neighborhoods, in our families, etc. we rub shoulders with people who need Christ. Do you ever wonder, "What is God's plan for leading these people to Christ?" Does God even have a plan for helping people come into a relationship with Himself through Jesus? Of course, the answer is "yes!" In the passage we are looking at today Paul lays out a clear, logical pattern of what needs to happen for people to come to faith in Christ. May our study today encourage us to live out our role in this progression.

**Opening Discussion:** Who was the main person (or one of the main persons) that was instrumental in you hearing the Good News and ultimately believing in Jesus?

### **Read Romans 10:14-21**

1. How does this passage connect to what we looked at last week (v. 13)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What does Paul say is required if someone is going to call on the name of Jesus to be saved (vv. 14-15)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What does Paul say about faith (v. 17)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What questions are asked and then answered about unbelieving Israel (vv. 18-20)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What does verse 21 reveal about the heart of God?

Steve said:

If the feet of messengers in Isaiah's day were beautiful, how much more beautiful are the feet of those who bring the gospel - the good news about Jesus. The message of the gospel is that our Exile **from God** is over. Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus we no longer have to live in a distant land, estranged from God. Instead of being separated from Him because of our sin, we have come home; we experience God as a good heavenly Father; we now stand before God without shame; in Christ we are as alive to God as Jesus Himself. None of us would have this right standing before God if He hadn't sent messengers with the good news. We wouldn't have heard and believed and called on the name of the Lord for salvation. This is the normal, God-ordained way that people come to the place of believing in Jesus and experiencing salvation. If you're a Christian, you believe because you've heard about Jesus from your parents or a friend or a speaker or someone who wrote a book. This is Plan A. There is no Plan B.

6. Do you really buy the idea that God only has this Plan A and that there is no Plan B? Explain.

Steve said:

Paul had a strong sense that he had been sent and commissioned by Jesus Himself to take this message to the Gentiles (Romans 1:4-5). This term "preacher" would include missionaries who are sent to other lands with the gospel. But there is also the sense in which every believer is commissioned as a messenger of this good news. Every one of us has the privilege of "bearing witness" - giving a firsthand account of what God has done in our lives through Jesus.

7. How do you react to this idea that you are "commissioned as a messenger" of the Good News?
8. What, if any, fears do you have about this role of "bearing witness"?
9. Who are some of the people in your life for whom God may want you to be the messenger?
10. As you look at the names of the people on your list, what are some ideas that you have about how you can point them to Jesus?