



JESUS TEACHES US...

LESSON FIVE: To share the good news of the gospel

Read John 20:19-22

The key verse in this passage is verse 21: *So, Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent me, I also send you."*

Matthew 9:35-38

Jesus travelled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues, and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, *"The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So, pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."*

Matthew 9:9-13

- Having read these passages, write down in your own words what is the 'good news of the gospel'.
- What was your experience of coming to know Jesus? Everyone's experience is different.
- Do you find it easy to share this with other people?

Over the centuries there have been many great preachers who taught the need for salvation. From Jonathan Edwards in America, George Whitfield, John Wesley, Dwight L. Moody, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, Billy Graham, Arthur Blessitt, Martin Lloyd Jones, to name but a VERY few. It is worth looking up these people, and others, to find out how God used them.

However, most people hear the good news of the gospel through people they meet and who share their testimony, their story, with them. Sometimes, it's coming to church to find out about getting married or having your children baptised that people hear about the gospel for the first time.

The good news is that: **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners** | Timothy 1:15, and Paul here says he was the chief of sinners.

As a teacher of many years, I know that you can only teach what you know and have learned yourself. The same is true as Christians. To be able to share the gospel, we must have experienced it for ourselves.

Not only do we have to share in words but also in deeds. People watch Christians for what they do, often more than for what they say. In other words, we must daily live out the gospel.

The account of Zacchaeus in [Luke 19:1-10](#) demonstrates what a difference hearing the good news can have on subsequent attitudes and actions.

- In what ways have your attitudes changed since becoming a Christian?
- Has the change of attitude spilled over into changes in the way you live?
- How important is your faith to you?

Sometimes it is our family who are the hardest to talk to about the changes in our life. If that is the case for you, do everything you can to let your faith be demonstrated in what you do.

Some years ago, a friend of ours, Terry, brought his boss to an event where someone was sharing their testimony. His boss later made a commitment to Jesus and eventually was ordained. The reason he came with his employee to that meeting was the difference he had seen in him since he had become a Christian. He said that prior to Terry becoming a Christian he was the most foul-mouthed person he had ever come across but overnight that changed, and he wanted to find out how that could have happened.

It is important to understand and to be able to share what a difference Jesus can make in our lives.

In a great gospel song *Testify* is this line: “*Grace came to me and my soul is compelled, I've got such good news that I just can't keep to myself... Testify!*”

Going back to the verse at the beginning of this study, which is after Jesus has been resurrected, there is no get-out clause for sharing the good news. God had sent Jesus and he tells his disciples ***I also send you.***

A recurring theme in the Gospels when talking about Jesus is that he had **compassion**. When people came to Jesus for help, he never condemned them but always showed compassion. That is why having described the crowd as confused and helpless, like a sheep without a shepherd, he follows it with the words: “*The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So, pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.*”

- Where do think is your field of service?

- If you're not certain, then pray and ask God to guide you as to where to put your time and energies.
- Jesus is no longer on this earth but has passed the baton on to us; *I also send you*. He doesn't expect us to do it alone, he promises us the help of the Holy Spirit. [John 14:15-17](#)

If you want a deeper understanding of the work of Jesus, his love and compassion, then read through the Gospels.

Never think anyone is beyond God's mercy. Think of Saul of Tarsus on the Damascus Road in Acts 9. This man had done horrific things to the early Christians but all that changed as he was blinded by the light of Jesus and challenged by his words.

Paul wrote in his first letter to the Corinthians chapter 13:8 **"Love never fails"**. Always, to whomever we are speaking, show love. It is love to which people respond, and we should pray to be filled with the love and compassion of Jesus.

[Romans 10:14](#) "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"

Preaching isn't just what is done from the pulpit, it can be the simple sharing of the love of God as manifested in his son, Jesus.



Prayer: Fill me with your love, fill me with your peace, fill me Lord with you.