

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 24th July 2022
Sermon Title: I am sending you...to proclaim good news!
Bible Passage: Isaiah 52:7-10, Romans 10 12-17

Introduction

Take time to read the passage from a couple of different translations.

- What would good news be for the following people: for a sports-fan, student, homeless person, a job-seeker, an asylum seeker?
- What is the best news you have ever heard? What made it so good?
- Why do you think the media sensationalises 'bad news' stories and not so much 'good news' stories?

Recapping the Preach

Stu began by saying that Israel, in their current context, were in desperate need of 'good news'. News that will change their life, their land, their future, their nation - they need good news of substance that will actually make a difference. This is the kind of good news that the messenger was running with.

- What was the good news (3 aspects) that the messenger was bringing?
- Why was this good news to the people of Israel?
- In verse 7 the messenger describes the reign of God - what does he say and what does he mean?
- How does the Lord comfort and redeem his people (compare Isaiah 53)?
- What do you think it means that 'the Lord will lay bare his holy arm' (vs.10)?

Stu then went on to make the connection that Isaiah 52 points forward to the ministry of Jesus. For Jesus is: God reigning, God returning and God redeeming.

- How did Jesus demonstrate the reign of God in His ministry?
- Which story in the gospels depicts Jesus returning to Jerusalem (see Matthew 21:1ff and Zechariah 9:9)?
- How does Jesus redeem humankind (see Isaiah 53)?

Stu then pointed out what this means for those who have put their trust in Jesus Christ - that we are justified, saved, reconciled, forgiven, redeemed, adopted, made alive and given the Spirit. He summarised that these are the spiritual blessings that Paul speaks of in Ephesians 1:3.

- Pick three of these different terms: how would you explain them to a non-Christian friend?
- Why does Paul quote Isaiah 52:7 in Romans 10:12-17?
- What is the main idea of Romans 10:12-17?
- Why do you think the messengers feet are described as being beautiful?
- Summarise in one sentence that the good news is.

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- Who can you share the good news with this week?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.
- Pray that God would give you one opportunity to share the good news this week.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://bibleproject.com> (videos)
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>