

Title: "SENT"

Jacob Lee, Reaching Africa's Unreached

Romans 10:13-17

¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

¹⁴ **How** then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And **how** are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And **how** are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And **how** are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

I. Introduction: Story of Oyo Village, a remote village in Metu Mountains...we remember moments in our history→ looking at Metu Mountains with Tobias...villages with no hope of hearing the gospel unless someone goes to them

A. One example: Oyo-Parked and walked to Tamarind tree...

1. 25-30 adults and many children
2. The look in their eyes as I proclaimed the gospel.... why has someone not told us this before?
3. Over 2.4 billion-1/3 of the world... with little to no access to the gospel...let this sink in...this is context of my message...
 - a. "the unreached" → in one sense all people that are lost are "unreached". The lost in the 2/3's category need the gospel proclaimed to them. There are saved people and churches in their midst or not far geographically from them, easy access to media etc. Main point: if they want to hear there are ways.
 - b. The 2.4 billion+ do not have Christians or churches in their geographical places. They will not hear without someone being sent to their tribe and geographical place. Their only option is someone being sent to them...this the context of message this morning. They remain unreached because it is physically very hard to get to and in many cases it is dangerous to go to them. However, these challenges should not stop the church from advancing into their areas with the glorious gospel.

II. Verse 13...is good news... "Saved" ...saved by God from God. John 10→ "gate" & "good shepherd". Jesus the son of God laid down his life...at the cross we see both the love and wrath of God ...at age 20...44 years ago I called upon the Name of the Lord

III. In light of v.13 we will work through the passage.... logical progression

A. V.14-15a ...Take note of the word "**how**" → it is used 4 times...also each phrase is a question which connects to previous phrase.

B. We will work backwards from 15a to the first phrase "*how can they call on him whom they have not believed?*"→

C. **First: "And how are they to preach unless they are sent?" "Sent"** general command in John 20:21 which is a call to all believers; Acts 13:1-3...example of the local church sending their best. The task of reaching the world is the local churches first and foremost task (not individuals/parachurch organizations). **The strength of the local church is seen (not primarily) in how many members they seat but in how many members they are sending forth to the nations.**

1. I praise God for missionary heroes **but**.... I firmly believe Satan fears most a local church whose eyes and hearts and passion are to reach the 2.4+ billion who will not hear unless churches are sacrificially sending forth their best **and** sacrificially giving to those sent to the 2.4+ B. **It should be completely unacceptable to us in our day that there is this number with little to no access to the gospel!**

a. Our focus first at RAU is to work with local churches.... In Metu, in Yumbe, with teams coming....

2. As a local church how are you doing in the "*sending*" department to this 2.4+ billion? Actions speak louder than words! --> Quote: **Matthew 9:37-38**→ **"PRAY EARNESTLY, plead→SEND OUT→ fields ready for harvest!!!** Not all called to go but all are called to send→ people, prayers and money! Our Lord says the nations are his! Do we believe it? "Jesus says _____ is mine!" Mission exists because all people are called to worship Jesus...that is our mandate! John 10:16 Jesus says, "**I have other sheep** which are not of this fold and I **must** bring them in"! And, as John Piper says, "*Missions exists because worship does not.*"

3. Indulge me as I share some personal experiences of *“fields ready for harvest”* → nearby Metu Mountains...Yumbe ... Obongi...and North Sudan. My heart is often burdened/broken over the many appeals I receive which I cannot attend to...Metu M.—9 villages reached...20+ more; Yumbe-Aringa -unreached people group...open doors to preach in markets/to Sheikhs...the Obongi cry....;North Sudan→celebrating Christmas openly after 30 years of restriction...Christmas now officially on the Sudanese calendar....training up leaders is a most crucial need at this time...

D. **Second: “And how are they to hear without someone preaching?”** Cannot “hear” without being “preached” too. Mark 16:15 ... “proclaim/preach the gospel to everyone” → there are no closed doors to the gospel! Hearing connected to preaching....speaking... nothing subject here...Romans 1:16... *“I am **not ashamed** of the gospel because it is the power of God for salvation for all who believe”* Example from last summer meeting with two Sheikhs: 1. “Supreme Leader of the Yumbe Muslim High Council” and 2. “District Khard” story→met last summer twice said you can teach agricultural but no preaching-→told him that I cannot cut out the Gospel—it is like cutting off one of my arms.

1. For the gospel to be heard it must be proclaimed/heralded/preached with WORDS/speaking. Someone has said *“the gospel without words is like a dictionary with blank pages”* Preaching/speaking is the primary means of God’s saving people....Acts 26:18 Jesus said to Paul and to us *“I am sending you to open their eyes, **so that** they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”*

a. It must be clearly and rightly proclaimed... in Acts we find the phrase often used by Luke about Paul *“he reasoned from the scriptures”*

2. Doing deeds of mercy “*adorns*” (Titus 2:10) the gospel but the gospel is not heard through deeds of mercy ...it is heard through proclamation.
3. Good works adorn...make it beautiful...make it appealing ...they help make people receptive.
4. We also must be careful not to dissect proclamation & good works apart from each other either water, eyeglasses, medical care, agriculture. Etc. Examples: 1. Sheikhs→ ready to hear the gospel proclaimed. Trading Center Muslim dominated...no receptivity ...saw an Imam who had received meds/glasses→hugged...people in the market then okay with us speaking the gospel to them with words. 2. Ten Water wells... 3. Agriculture... **Good works ADORN the gospel**

E. “And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard” – One cannot believe unless they have heard the gospel

1. Simply put...the biblical historic gospel must be faithfully preached. There is one gospel of which we must not be ashamed...Jesus birth, life, death, resurrection ascension and coming back to receive and judge
2. Important ingredient→**passion!** People must see one’s conviction EX: about a month ago after a blistering attack by a group Sheikhs and apologists in a meeting I made a very passionate appeal to believe Christ alone for salvation (These Sheikhs were over 250+ Mosques....)
3. One gospel...methods and strategies we bring are different in different contexts. EX: Paul in Acts 13 and 17→same gospel different emphasis. More examples: rural village- I draw on the ground or use simple stories, Muslim- uniqueness of Jesus; America...rancher and a CEO etc. Different emphasis within the same presentation of the gospel.

F. “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed?”

1. True belief is not just an intellectual understanding (this is much preached in our day), and neither is it a commitment without intellectual understanding. Example: Visiting evangelist in Yumbe... “*If you love Jesus raise your hand*”100’s raised their hands and the evangelist claimed they were saved. He clearly did not understand that all Muslims “*love*” Jesus, but it is their version of Jesus.
 - a. **Point:** Unless facts are proclaimed the message is not Christianity **AND** unless the facts are understood and believed the faith that follows is not true faith regardless of the intensity

2. Now brought back to v.13... **“all who call upon the Lord are saved”!** If these steps-sending, preaching, hearing, believing are not followed the 2.8 b will not reached!

IV. Now let us look at v. 15b adorns these gospel steps

A. “Feet” underscores the sending and the going

1. Comes from Is.52: 7 with one change... “*him*” to “*those*” ...sig. to plural which brings home the point that body of Christ together must be involved in reaching the lost.

2. Old saying **“Beauty is as beauty does”** ...beauty is related to action/character not “*looks*” ...example-1 Sam. 16. True beauty measured by gracious acts...the most beautiful is proclaiming the gospel to the lost

3. Story of Indian evangelist

B. V. 16 not all will believe. Our responsibility is to get the gospel to the lost.... plant.... water...God gives the increase.

V. “So, faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

A. 9/11 picture story

VI. Leave a challenge to individuals/couples/families and to your church

A. Next 24 hours seriously pray asking the Lord if you are called to go and be a part of reaching the 2.4+ billion and be willing to obey. And if God calls you to stay ask how you can leverage all you have to be a part of reaching the 2.8 B

B. As a church praying how you can actively be a part of sending and supporting those sent and doing all to leverage all that you have to reach the 2.8 B

VII. The good news is only good to those it reaches! The 2.4+ billion will remain untold unless the local church sends, and members go! What are you going to do with this? You and I are accountable. Ezekiel tells of the watchman who sees the danger and does not warn the city and he is held accountable ...