

Romans 10.¹⁻²¹

Sending

Background

In this study we depart from the order in which Tony Merida addresses these 8 themes in his book, *Love Your Church*.

Part of the reason for so doing is due to our working from a single book of the Bible (Romans) and following the 'order' of *that* book. Part of the reason, however, is the logic which is implicit in our being a 'welcoming' fellowship; for that involves our having an essentially 'outward' perspective – and integral to that perspective is the conviction that as a body of believers we have been *sent out* by the Lord into the world.

In other words, the 'welcome' of the gospel is extended to, and experienced by, all nations only as the commission of Jesus is embraced by His people and they self-identify as such a 'sent' people. "*As the Father has sent Me,*" said Jesus to His disciples in the immediate aftermath of His resurrection, "*I am sending you*" (Jn.20.21).

The first 3 'days' of this study introduce the theme of our being 'sent' by working through the narrative of the man born blind whose sight is restored (Jn.9.1-34). The man is in many ways a picture of us all – 'blind from birth' until our eyes were opened to see the Lord – and John seems to draw particular attention (see Jn.9.7) to the fact that, as those whose sight has been wonderfully restored, believers are 'sent' by the Lord to a world still in darkness in order to bear witness to Jesus.

The remaining 4 'days' of the study concentrate on Romans 10. That chapter forms part of Paul's explanation as to why it is that the Jews, to whom the promise of God was made, have actually rejected the one in whom that promise has been fulfilled. He's underlining that it's the moral refusal to believe which lies behind that rejection: in the earlier part of the letter he's argued that it is by grace that we are saved through the provision which God has made in Jesus of a righteousness not our own: this gift, of course, is to be received by faith.

But how is the faith whereby we 'call on the name of the Lord' created in the hearts of people? His logic is relentless (as 'day 6' highlights) – faith comes by hearing, hearing requires preaching, and preaching involves people being .. (you guessed it!) .. sent. The whole book of Acts is the story of believers, as a 'sent' people, being the means by which the Lord 'reveals Himself' and 'holds out His hands' to Jew and Gentile alike. That's why the relevant chapter in Tony Merida's book focuses on the church at Antioch (Acts 11ff) in order to illustrate what it means for each and every believer to be part of a 'sent and sending' church.

(Here's [the link](#) to Tony Merida's short (3:44) video introduction to that chapter).

I've added extra questions under **Days (1), (5) and (6)**, and suggest that these may be the ones on which you most profitably concentrate, or at least the one with which you start, within your Community Group.

1) Monday 25th October – sight

Read [John 9.1-12](#)

“.. ‘we must do the work of Him who sent Me ..’” (Jn.9.4)

Jesus’ call was simple – ‘Follow Me.’ Believers thus share in His continuing work as those who, like Him, are *sent* into the world, bringing light into the world’s varied darkness. Sight came at Siloam for this blind man: those who ‘see’ are sent to others.

What and whom did Jesus use to open your eyes to the truths of the gospel?

How does John make clear that the words Jesus spoke about Himself (vv.4-5) are applicable to the man whose sight is restored?

What opportunities have you had to bear witness to Jesus with your family and your neighbours (vv.7-8)?

How would you share your testimony in three short sentences, as this man here did?

Prayer: *Thank You, Lord Jesus, for opening my eyes enabling me at last to see by faith ‘Him who is invisible: grant me daily opportunities to share my story with others.*

2) Tuesday 26th October – speaking

Read [John 9.13-23](#)

“.. ‘He is of age. He will speak for himself ..’” (Jn.9.21)

The blind man’s parents were sent for by the Pharisees; but despite the miracle they’d witnessed in their son, unlike him, they were scared to speak of Jesus as the Christ and ducked the opportunity which their being sent for gave.

The man’s being brought to the Pharisees was the means by which he was ‘sent’ to these men: where will the Lord be ‘bringing’ or ‘sending’ you today?

How did you (or how can you) get over the fear of what others may say or do, a fear which prevents you sharing what Jesus has done in your life?

Prayer: *As I go out into today, O God, help me to do so as one sent by You: and as You promised long ago, please help me speak and in every situation teach me what to say.*

3) Wednesday 27th October – insults

Read [John 9.24-34](#)

“.. they hurled insults at him and said, ‘You are this man’s disciple’ ..” (Jn.9.28)

Being sent by God with the message of grace is no guarantee of popularity – especially when your story is matched by a summons ('Do you want to become His disciples, too?'). Those engaged in Christ's mission must be ready for insults and ignominy.

In what ways have you experienced 'insults' being thrown at you for commending Jesus and calling others to discipleship?

The man was not afraid to say "I don't know": are you? Do the questions you may be asked deter you from speaking about Jesus?

Prayer: *This is amazing grace, unfailing love, that You would take my place and would bear my cross and set me free: help me, Jesus, sing of all that You have done for me!*

4) Thursday 28th October – saved

Read [Romans 10.1-8](#)

".. my heart's desire and prayer to God .. is that they may be saved .." (Rom.10.1)

Paul knew himself to be a man 'sent' by God (see [Acts 26.16-18](#)). It wasn't ever *duty* so much as *desire* that saw him bear witness to Jesus. His calling was to be Jesus' means of opening the eyes of the blind and turning them from darkness to light.

Do you make a point of praying earnestly for your family, friends and neighbours that they may be saved?

Why did Paul focus on the incarnation (v.6) and the resurrection (v.7) of Jesus in the message he proclaimed?

Prayer: *So many of those dear to me, Lord, are hopelessly lost and completely blind. Please open the eyes of these blind, that they may be saved.*

5) Friday 29th October – faith

Read [Romans 10.9-13](#)

".. the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on Him .." (Rom.10.12)

The message believers are sent to proclaim is Scripture-based, simple, and centred on Jesus. Jesus paid the price. Jesus lives and reigns. Jesus is for anyone (v.11) and everyone (v.13): all who trust in Him and call on His name are saved.

Paul speaks about both (a) 'declaring with your mouth' *and* 'believing in your heart'; and (b) the lordship of Jesus *and* His resurrection from the dead: what is he concerned to stress thereby as being central to the message proclaimed?

What does the Bible mean by 'calling on the name of the Lord'?

In what ways has the Lord richly blessed you as you called on Him?

Prayer: *O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious truths that You impart: and wing my words that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart [F.R.Havergal]*

6) Saturday 30th October – sent

Read [Romans 10.14-15](#)

“.. how can they preach unless they are sent ..” (Rom.10.15)

There’s a relentless logic in Paul’s tracing the experience of God’s salvation back to the *sending* of His people by the Lord. The progress of the gospel is tied in with the mission God has given to believers. They’ve been sent with good news for the world!

Make it personal! Who were those who so preached the gospel to you that you heard, believed and started to call on the Lord?

And to whom has the Lord now sent you that you may bring to them the good news of salvation?

Read [Acts 11.19-21](#): how did the Lord ‘send’ these believers who ‘preached’ the good news about Jesus in Antioch?

How does that help you the better understand your own circumstances as being the means of God ‘sending’ you to ‘spread the word’ and ‘tell the good news about the Lord Jesus’?

Prayer: *O fill me with Your fulness, Lord, until my heart shall overflow in kindling thought and glowing word, Your love to tell, Your praise to show [F.R.Havergal]*

7) Sunday 31st October – witness

Read [Romans 10.16-21](#)

“.. ‘I revealed Myself to those who did not ask for Me ..” (Rom.10.20)

Being sent by the Lord does not guarantee ‘success’. But He sends you as His ‘messenger’, that through your daily witness He might both reveal Himself to those who did not ask and hold out His hands to those who will not heed.

In what ways have you seen the Lord breaking into the lives of people who weren’t particularly ‘seeking’ Him? Have you been part of that sometimes?

What did Paul identify as the root problem in the failure of the Jews (as a whole) to call on the name of Jesus?

Prayer: *O use me, Lord, use even me, just as You will, and when, and where, until at last Your face I see, Your rest, Your joy, Your glory share [F.R.Havergal]*