



# THEY DON'T WANT TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

## ABSTRACT

Have you ever had a situation where it was good news for you, but bad news for someone else? ...

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## Scripture of the Day

Romans 10:11 – 15

*<sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." <sup>14</sup> 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? <sup>15</sup> 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!"*

## Announcements

Reminder that we will be having communion next week on Resurrection Day.

## Introduction

Have you ever had a situation where it was good news for you, but bad news for someone else? Or the other way around.

The students return to high school in my school system tomorrow and that scenario came to my mind. As teachers in a place where it does snow, so of the best words we can ever see in an email is -- "Building is closed due to snow."

That means we will be getting a day off with pay. A beautiful thing for the teachers, but not always for the administrators, because sometimes it's not enough snow for them to get a day off, and they have to come into work in bad weather. And then there are times when teachers and administrators are off due to snow, but the maintenance and building staff have to come in to clear the grounds of the snow.

Not good news for them

Well Jesus's disciples are now spreading the Good News around the towns in all of Galilee, but for many people they don't want to hear about the Good News.

But why?

We will talk about that this morning. I hope you can join us.

# Body

## A Place to Stay

### Matthew 10:11 – 15

*11 And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. 12 As you enter the house, greet it. 13 And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. 15 Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.*

When the disciples reached the town where they were going to preach the Good News, they needed to find a place to stay. Jesus told them to find a home which was worthy. Now what does worthy mean?

A few translations say instead of “worthy”, “who is willing to welcome you”, “willing to have you as a guest.” A couple of translations add “welcomes you and your message” or “is willing to listen to you.” This part of the world is known for its hospitality, so there may be a number of people who would have been willing to take in the disciples. However, the disciples needed to be discerning and stay with people who were not only willing to house them, but also would be receptive to their message.

There is a difference between going out and evangelizing to the lost and living with the lost. Paul talked about this throughout the New Testament:

### 2 Timothy 3:1 - 5

*But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.*

### 1 Corinthians 5:9 – 13

*9 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— 10 not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. 11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. 12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? 13 God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”*

## Stay Here for the Duration

So it is important to be with like-minded people for your soul, for your growth, for your peace. Therefore, once the disciples found their people, they were to stay there. That doesn't mean they just stayed at that home. They were there to evangelize. To reach out to the lost in that town. However, our time of refreshing will be with our fellow disciples.

## Greeting

Once the disciple enters that house, they are to give a greeting to the people of the house. Some translations say "give it your blessing", "give it your peace", or "salute it." This is more than a "thank you." This is a blessing and a prayer to God over the family.

## Sometimes We are Fooled

v. 13 shows an interesting point. Sometimes how we think people are, is not the case once we have spent more personal time with them. There is a great Liberian saying that I heard from my mother-in-law, and it goes:

*"Come visit me is different from come stay with me."*

People often can say and act one way in public, but behind closed doors the experience can be quite different. Paul writes about these supposed disciples of Christ as well:

### 2 Corinthians 11:12 – 15

*<sup>12</sup>And what I am doing I will continue to do, in order to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do. <sup>13</sup>For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup>And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. <sup>15</sup>So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.*

So when we are presented with additional information, then we need to adjust. Just because someone says they are a Christian does not mean that they are a true disciple of our Lord Jesus.

## No Reception

Whether it is the people within the house or people out in the town where the disciples were evangelizing. If the people were not willing to receive the Good News, then the disciples were to shake the dust off of their feet as testimony against them.

There are 3 major points I want to highlight:

### *Symbol of Judgment and Separation*

a. In Jewish tradition, devout Jews would shake the dust off their feet when leaving Gentile (non-

Jewish) lands to avoid bringing pagan contamination back into Israel.

- b. When Jesus instructed His disciples to do this, it was a **powerful gesture of disassociation**. It meant that the town or people who rejected the message were being treated as outsiders to God's covenant—essentially saying, “You have rejected the truth, and we leave you to face the consequences.”

### **Public Testimony**

It served as a **visible testimony** against those who refused to accept the Gospel. It wasn't done in anger but as a solemn warning that they were rejecting God's offer of salvation.

### **Spiritual Accountability**

The disciples fulfilled their duty. They had shared the message faithfully, and now the responsibility for rejecting it lay with the hearers.

## **Consequences**

It is funny and sad listening to Christian leaders, pastors, ministers, and teachers never communicate the fact that Jesus clearly said there are consequences for not being a disciple of His. Serious consequences. Eternal consequences.

Everything is about God's love and never about God's justice and wrath and what that means. It is throughout the New Testament, but they amazingly are able to act like frogs jumping from one lily pad to another, never touching the uncomfortable truths of the Bible.

Well, here at aciW, we go verse by verse. Never skipping any verses (at least not on purpose, please let me know if I skip anything), so if Jesus says something uncomfortable, well we are going to discuss it. Welcome to the uncomfortable.

Not everyone who is listening to me right now is familiar with Sodom and Gomorrah, so I think we need to give a little context:

<<< [Show the video of Sodom and Gomorrah](#) >>>

## **Take Aways**

As disciples of Christ we must remember that God will provide what we need:

Providing for our needs doesn't mean we will be staying in fancy places and it doesn't mean that

most people will like what we have to say. On the contrary, we may need to be doing a lot of shaking the dirt off of our sandals. As the Bible states:

### **1 Peter 4:12 – 16**

*<sup>12</sup> Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup> If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.*

### **John 15:18 – 20**

*<sup>18</sup> “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.*

These are tough truths. Walking this out is not difficult, but it is impossible in our own strength. However, we must remember what Jesus said earlier to His disciples in verses 7 & 8 of Matthew Chapter 10:

*<sup>7</sup> And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ <sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons.*

... and what He has given all of us who are His disciples now:

### **Acts 1:6 – 8**

*<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*