

Go Tell it on the Mountain - Romans 10:8-17
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

It's Christmas time! I love this time of the year. Of course, that includes all sorts of traditions, lights, parties, and all the rest of the red and green fun. But what I really love is being brought back to the beautiful story of the incarnation, the incredible good news that God came to us in Jesus, and the greatest glory entered human flesh in the most humble way. The story of Jesus' birth is filled with beauty that reminds us of the purpose of His coming. So a big part of what I love about Christmas is the music. I was riding around with a friend of mine last Christmas when he noticed that the music he tends to listen to at Christmas is different than mine. While he enjoyed the multiple "St. Louis's only all Christmas station," playing the classics like Dean Martin, Johnny Mathis, and Nat King Cole, I am more drawn to music that centers on the great songs that retell the story. The Christmas carols I grew up singing in church that reminded us that the Kings came to worship bringing gifts, the herald angels sang, and something about gloria and eggshells. But these songs drew my attention to a manger and the amazing Gospel story.

The Negro Spiritual *Go Tell it on the Mountain* has always been one of my favorites. It might be because the soulful song is performed by several groups in my Christmas playlist and they almost always have a groove that is, well, just fun. But the song is also a reindeer that the Gospel story told in the Christmas story is connected to the Great Commission. Followers of Jesus have an amazing story that is at the heart of our faith. It is the story of the eternal and glorious God loving us so much that He left His throne in heaven and became one of us. God became a man. You would think that if the eternal King was to be born, He would come to royal parents in a palace, not humble Galilean peasants and born in a barn or cave. His first bed was a nasty animal feed trough. His parents were helpless when the Roman government came to destroy their baby and had to flee. And of course, the birth of Jesus is just the beginning. This God-man proved who He was by performing miracles that demonstrated His authority over sickness, death, demons, and the created order. He reached out and loved the broken, outcast, downcast of the world and seemed to go out of His way to love those whom the religious crowd had rejected as "sinners". He was then arrested, tried, and executed on a cross for the crime of claiming that He was God, which of course, He is. His death though, was not about a wrongful conviction, rather it was God's way of offering forgiveness and grace to all people. Three days later Jesus rose again defeating death, hell, and the grave forever, and offering victory to anyone who would believe in Jesus. This is really good news! The angels knew it when they made their announcements, and the shepherds knew it after they had seen this extraordinary baby. We should know it if we truly have tasted and seen that the Lord is good. *Go Tell it on the Mountain* is a reminder we should tell the story of Christ on the mountain, "over the hill, and everywhere." We have good news, we need to tell it.

During the Christmas season this will be the focus of our sermon series, a challenge to those of us who know Jesus that we have good news, but good news unshared is useless. So we want to encourage you to find simple ways to build relationships with neighbors, co-workers, friends, and family so that you can tell them the story of Jesus and His true meaning. The last verse of the song goes like this:

He made me a watchman
Upon the city wall,
And if I am a Christian,
I am the least of all.

This verse is a reference to Ezekiel 33:1-9, where God compares the prophet to a watchman on an ancient city wall. The watchman has one job, to watch for an approaching enemy or other danger. If there is danger the watchman is to blow a trumpet, a signal of warning so that the people at the gates will close them and everyone else will be prepared for the coming struggle. If danger approaches and the watchman warns the city, then if they are not prepared that is on them. But if danger approaches and the watchman is asleep or too busy playing a game on his iPhone, the people of the city are still guilty of their sin, but the watchman is also guilty of their blood. In the same way, we are watchmen, who have been given the message that does include people's coming doom because of sin. If we fail to trumpet the good news our friends will still be guilty of their sin, but we too will be guilty and their blood will be on our hands. Stiff words, but a good reminder. We have a Gospel opportunity and responsibility to take on the same job the angels had on the night of Jesus birth, to announce the good news and give glory to God so that all people will know that "God sent us salvation on that blessed Christmas morn."

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Luke 1	Luke 2	Luke 3	Luke 4	Luke 5	Luke 6	Luke 7

Reading from this past week: Romans 10:8-17: Ezekiel 33:1-9
 Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Romans 10:8-17

Family Worship

Go Tell it on the Mountain - Need to Breathe version here

<https://youtu.be/MlgOpqwkWFk>

Gospel Project Main Point and Big Picture Question

Story: Peter Healed a Beggar

Main Point: In Jesus' name, Peter healed a man who could not walk.

Big Picture Question: What does the Holy Spirit do?

Answer: The Holy Spirit helps Christians follow Jesus.

Scripture: Acts 3:1-10, 4:5-31

Scripture

Romans 10:8-17

*Why is the story of Jesus' birth good news for us?

*How do we get beautiful feet? What do you think this means?

*What are some ways our family can share the story of Jesus with our neighbors this Christmas?

Prayer

*Make a list of five people you know who do not have a relationship with Christ and pray for them by name. Use Romans 10:1 as a model.

*Pray that we would be a church that faithfully preaches the good news in Eureka.