

## ULC Sermon Study Resource

*Global and Local*

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**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker: Would you keep a rare, valuable object in a secret location or “hidden in plain sight”?**

**Reading: Romans 10: 5-17**

**Outline:** God saves the world by saving individuals, restoring communities, and sending forth his church.

- I. God is saving individuals (v. 5-11)
  - a. If *you* (the individual) confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, *you* will be saved. (v. 9)
  - b. God is rescuing the world one person at a time by calling us to faith in Jesus. We can't hide behind the faith of others or membership in a particular group, but need to answer the question “Who do *you* say that I am?” that Jesus asks Peter in Matthew 16:13-16.  
**Q: Why is confessing and believing in Jesus enough? Why don't we need a spectacular conversion experience like the apostle Paul?**
- II. Salvation comes locally, but is for the world (v. 12-13)
  - a. God's salvation is for people of all times, places, and backgrounds.
  - b. Though Jesus lived and ministered in a small region of a country only about the size of Vermont, his life, death, and resurrection bring salvation for the whole world.
  - c. Individuals united by Christ work to bring about the renewal of entire communities.  
**Q: How can individual restoration bring about the restoration of the world?**
- III. God is sending forth his church (v. 14-17)
  - a. God sends his people to seek justice, show mercy, walk humbly with God, love our neighbors, and speak the Gospel that has the power to change lives.
  - b. We're not seeking to topple societal structures or effect drastic changes. Even one simple act of love and mercy, or moment of boldness to share the gospel can lead to the restoration of individuals and communities back to God.  
**Q: How can we take freedom in knowing that we don't have to change the world?**

### Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) Who do *you* say that Jesus is? What does it mean to confess that Jesus is Lord?
- 2) Have you ever expected God to show up in incredible, spectacular ways only to be disappointed?
- 3) How can you bring your disillusionment of society, institutions, and how God is working to God?
- 4) How can you look for God at work in the ordinary, the monotonous, or the “still small voice”?
- 5) Who is a neighbor you can love, a coworker you can forgive, someone you can help this week?

### Suggestions for further study:

- Galatians 4:1-7 **Q: How does the “fullness of time” and the way Jesus came surprise you?**
- Isaiah 52:7-12 **Q: How does the message of joy make the messenger's feet beautiful?**
- Acts 13:16-52 **Q: How does salvation spread from individuals in Israel to all the nations?**

**Closing Prayer:** Gracious God, we thank you for who you are. We thank you for your goodness, your mercy, and how you have made yourself known to us in so many ways. Lord, we often find ourselves caught up in looking and waiting for you to act in the big things of life, yet time and time again you continue to show up in the smallest, most insignificant things. So God, we ask that you would give us eyes to see where you are working today. Pour your spirit into our hearts as we carry the message of salvation that you have worked in your son Jesus. Make us agents of this message, that we would be sent into the world to be a part of the work of rescue you are bringing about in Jesus. We ask these things in the name of your son Jesus. Amen.