

Title: A Heart for Missions

Passage: Romans 15:14-33

Summary:

Characteristics of A Heart for Missions:

1. Values the importance of partnering with a local Gospel-centered church. (v.15)
2. Believes in the priest of all believers (v.16-17)
3. Is fully dependent on God for any results (v.17)
4. Has a passion for churches to be established and planted. (v.19-23)
5. Has compassion for material needs of the saints to be met. (v. 24-29)
6. Recognizes the importance of prayer in doing ministry (v. 30-33)

Key Truths:

- Christ's mandate to us to share the Gospel and make disciples while we are going / doing life. Developing a missional heart is key to growing in Christ-likeness.
- Everyone who trusts in Jesus Christ are priests. We are to minister to those around us with the same heart and perspective.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- When you think of a "missionary heart," what do you think of? Please explain.
- Of the 6 characteristics of a missional heart, which one impresses upon your heart and why?
- How can you adjust your schedule or priorities this week to take time to either be better equipped to share the Gospel or to actually share the Gospel to another?
- James 1:22 admonishes us to be "doers of the Word." What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

Introduction

Paul

- consider how God used him.
- A previously unknown man who wrote about Jesus Christ to various believers in the Roman Empire.
 - He had greater influence than the Roman Empire itself.

Romans 15:14-33

- see a glimpse of Paul's heart for missions in this passage.

- What was the key?
 - The Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- The book of Romans
 - Was written out of a heart of missions.
 - If you forget or downplay sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others, then miss the point of the book of Romans.
- A heart of missions that Paul had should be what we should have as well.
 - Our hearts should be moved to love the lost.

Passage:

Romans 15:14-33

I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, but as it is written,

“Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.”

This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while. At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you. I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

EXPOSITION

Introduction

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- The Great Commission.
 - But today it's often the "Great Omission"
 - People think this doesn't involve us
- "Go" = while you are going
 - You are called to share the Gospel and make disciples.
 - This is not optional but a mandate from Christ.

If a missional heart is not optional, then how do we develop this?

1. A MISSIONAL HEART VALUES THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERING WITH A LOCAL GOSPEL-CENTERED CHURCH (v.15)

Romans 15:14

I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.

- Paul valued partnering with the local church that was in Rome.
- Partnership is key
 - Without it, we lack the support and encouragement to continue.

you yourselves are full of goodness with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.

- Paul was encouraging those in Rome.

2 Peter 1:3

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

Romans 15:15

But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God

- The Book of Romans was meant to remind believers

Romans 16b

so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

2. A MISSIONAL HEART BELIEVES IN THE PRIEST OF ALL BELIEVERS (v.16-17)

Romans 15:16-17

to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God.

in the priestly service of the gospel of God

Who was a priest?

- Offer sacrifices on behalf of the people to God.
- Offer spiritual guidance

to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles

1 Peter 2:5

you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- Everyone who trusts in Jesus Christ are priests
 - Previously: people thought there was a distinction between those who have special powers and status before God and those who do not.
 - Truth: in Christ, we are all priests.
- You are not just anybody: you are a priest.
 - Can someone see you as someone to pray with?
 - Can someone see you to ask spiritual things?
- Doctrine of Priest of all Believers

3. A MISSIONAL HEART FULLY DEPENDENT ON GOD FOR ANY RESULTS (v.17-18)

Romans 15:17

In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God.

- Any pride we have is only through Christ.
 - Because anything good that comes is from God.

Romans 15:18-19

For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of

God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;

- "By word and deed" = people's lives were impacted merely not by speech only but in action as well.
- "By the power of signs and wonders" = the miracle of a heart changed from darkness to light is a wonder only God can do

4. A MISSIONAL HEART HAS A PASSION FOR CHURCHES TO BE ESTABLISHED AND PLANTED. (v.20-23)

Romans 15:20-24

and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, but as it is written,

“Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.”

This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.

- Paul was about age 60 when he wrote this.
 - He was wanting to go into a new area with a new language that he likely had not learned yet (Latin).
- Paul hopes the church will help him with resources

5. A MISSIONAL HEART HAS COMPASSION FOR MATERIAL NEEDS OF THE SAINTS TO BE MET. (v. 25-27)

Romans 15:25-26

At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.

- interested on the well-being of others as well as the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - You are blessed to be a blessing.

Romans 15:27

For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings.

- We are in debt to Israel because God had used it through which the Gospel of Jesus Christ came about.

6. A MISSIONAL HEART RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER IN DOING MINISTRY (V. 30-33)

Romans 15:30-33

I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

- Paul asked for prayers for both the present and for the future.
 - God did answer those prayers

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Isaiah 59:1

Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;

APPLICATION POINTS

Does this message resonate with your heart?

- When you hear "missions" - what do you think?
 - Enthusiastic to be used by God?
 - Feel inadequate and don't know what to do?
 - Burdened to do so?
 - Uncomfortable?
 - If uncomfortable, what is the underlying reason?
- Are you willing to take time and be better equipped to share the Gospel?
 - We are normally motivated by rewards.
 - Consider the value of a soul.
 - We are either 1) a sender, 2) goer, or 3) disobedient.

God's heart is a missionary heart.

- He seeks and saves the lost.

Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

Luke 15:4-7

“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.