

Win One More: Don't Break the Chain

Discussion Notes: March 22, 2026

1. Think of someone who first told you about Jesus or invited you to church. Who were they, and what made them take that step?

This week's sermon opened with the 2008 Olympics 4x100 relay. The fastest sprinters on the planet were eliminated because of one dropped baton. Neither runner owned the exchange. The message was clear: it doesn't matter how talented you are if the handoff doesn't happen. The same is true for sharing your faith. Romans 10:13-15 gives us a chain, a sequence of links that connects a lost person to salvation. If any one link breaks, the chain falls apart. And unlike a suspension bridge, God's chain has no backup system. He chose people. He chose you.

Read Romans 10:13–15 (ESV)

"For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. 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? 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!'"

The sermon walked us through each link in that chain. The promise is wide: everyone who calls will be saved. But calling requires belief, belief requires hearing, hearing requires someone to speak, and speaking requires someone who was sent. The gap between where people are and where God wants them is not always about resistance. Often, it's just silence. The sermon reminded us that we are not the authors of the message. The King wrote it. We are simply the delivery system. And we are sent not to a foreign country, but across the street, across the office, across the dinner table.

2. Romans 10 describes a chain where every link depends on the one before it. Where do you think that chain most commonly breaks down in everyday life?

Read Matthew 28:19–20 (ESV)

"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 is not addressed to missionaries or pastors. It's given to ordinary followers of Jesus. The commission starts with "go," and the sermon pointed out that the word for "preaching" in Romans 10 is *kēryssō*, meaning to herald. A herald in the ancient world didn't compose the message. They carried the authority of the king who sent them. Rejecting the herald was rejecting the king. That's who we are. Not debaters, not persuaders, but messengers.

3. When was the last time you talked to someone about your faith outside of church? What made it easy or hard?

Read 1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

"But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."

Peter's instruction is both a calling and a comfort. We are not meant to argue people into the kingdom. We are called to live with such visible hope that people wonder where it comes from, and then to speak when they ask. That is the herald the sermon described: someone who carries a message that isn't their own, with courage and gentleness working together, not against each other.

4. The sermon said God chose people as his delivery system on purpose, because relationships are the system. Is that something you find encouraging, or does it ever feel like a heavy thing to carry? Why?

Read John 20:21 (ESV)

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.'"

5. Based on this sermon, who is your one? Write down one name this week, someone in your life who needs to hear the good news, and commit to one specific step toward them before next week.

Prayer Points

- For the one on your heart. Pray by name for the person on your heart. Ask God to open a door for that conversation.
- For boldness and gentleness together. Ask God for the courage to speak and the gentleness to do it well.
- For the chain to hold. Pray that no one in your circle stays lost simply because no link was owned.

Deeper Dive: Paul's Burden for the Lost

Romans is not a book Paul wrote from a distance. He wrote it to a church he had never been to, in the most powerful city in the world, and underneath all of the theology is something really personal. Paul is not just explaining the gospel. He is writing out of a deep, almost painful love for people who don't know Jesus yet. The chain we looked at in Romans 10 didn't come from someone sitting at a desk mapping out a strategy. It came from someone who was genuinely brokenhearted over the people still outside of it.

Read Romans 9:1–5 (ESV)

"I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen."

I love this passage because Paul does not try to clean up how he feels. He just says it. He is grieving. He is in anguish. And he goes so far as to say he would give up his own place with Christ if it meant his people could be saved. That is not a theological argument. That is a man who is completely wrecked over the people he loves who don't know Jesus. I think a lot of us feel the pressure to share our faith, but Paul is showing us something different here. He is not motivated by obligation. He is motivated by love. And that changes everything about how you approach the people around you.

Read Romans 10:1–4 (ESV)

“Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”

What stands out to me here is that Paul does not describe the people he is praying for as people who hate God. He says they are zealous. They are trying. They just don't have the full picture yet. And honestly, I think that describes a lot of people in our lives. They are not necessarily hostile to faith. Some of them are actually pretty spiritual. They just haven't encountered the gospel in a way that connected. That is the gap the sermon was talking about. And Paul's response to that gap is not frustration. It is prayer. His heart's desire, he says, is that they would be saved. That kind of prayer has a way of changing how you see people.

Read Romans 15:17–21 (ESV)

“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.’”

By the time you get to Romans 15, Paul is not talking about theory anymore. He has actually lived all of this out. He has traveled thousands of miles, been beaten, thrown in prison, shipwrecked, and he is still going. And what drives him is this one thing: he wants to go where people have not yet heard the name of Jesus. He does not want to just add to what someone else already built. He wants to find the people nobody has reached yet. Now most of us are not going to do that literally. But I think the spirit of it applies right where we are. There are people in your neighborhood, your workplace, your family, who are your version of that unreached place. Paul's beautiful feet went somewhere. The question is where yours are going.

Discussion Questions

1. Paul says he has unceasing anguish over people who don't know Jesus. Is that something you can relate to? What do you think it takes to get there?
2. Paul says the people he is praying for are zealous but missing the full picture. Who in your life might that describe?
3. Paul's ambition was to go where Jesus hadn't been named yet. What does that look like for you right where you are?