

Lesson 8: Sharing the Gospel

The fruit of being filled with the righteousness of God, as we discussed in the previous lesson, is to both live out the gospel and to share it with others. This is true love toward our neighbor. Having considered first how to live out the gospel, we will now conclude our study of Christian character by examining our responsibility to explain to others how they too can be filled with the righteousness of God. More specifically, we will be analyzing the two main responses we receive when ministering the gospel.

Turn to Romans 10:14-17 and read aloud

First, it is pertinent to briefly establish the necessity of sharing the gospel, finding our basis in scripture. People cannot hear the gospel without someone to preach it to them or somehow give them sufficient access to the Word of God. Preaching the gospel is not reserved only for those who are “called” to a ministerial position. We are all called to minister the gospel (**Matt. 28:18-20**). When sharing the truth with others, we are informed by the Lord that different people have different soils of heart, and that each soil will have a different response. We are going to study the two overarching responses to this message.

Turn to Matthew 5:9-12 and read aloud

We ought to always pursue peace with all people, especially when preaching the gospel, yet we must pursue peace without compromising holiness (**Heb. 12:14**). It should be our desire not to quarrel, but in humility to expose the lies people believe so that they might experience true freedom in Christ (**II Tim. 2:24-26**). We are to shod our feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace, being eager always to offer a message of reconciliation and to represent Him in His desire that none should perish (**II Cor. 5:18-20, II Pet. 3:9**). All who are friends of the world and not in Christ have made themselves enemies of God (**Jas. 4:4**). They are not at peace with God, but are at war with Him, battling for their own independence and way of life. To those who receive the message of reconciliation you preach, you will be a peacemaker. You will make even your enemies to be at peace with you (**Prov. 16:7**). As a minister of peace, you represent your Father in heaven, and those who receive the truth you preach will see that you are truly a son of God. It is for this reason that the peacemakers are blessed, because they shall be called sons of God.

Whereas being a peacemaker and called a son of God is easy to see as blessed and joyous, the response of persecution is much more difficult to endure. It is for this reason that three verses are devoted to this topic in the beatitudes. Scripture offers encouragement for the persecuted. “Yours is the kingdom.” Remember that you have the treasure of Jesus awaiting you for eternity in heaven. This ought to cause you to think as Paul, in **Romans 8:18**; that the suffering of this present age is not worthy to be compared with what is to come in eternity. We are also encouraged to not grow weary while doing what is right, for when the time is right, God will bring about fruit where we patiently sow (**Gal. 6:9**).