What if Someone Doesn't Hear About Jesus?

Greg Kline · Colossians 1:15–23

INTRODUCTION

- What if someone doesn't hear about Jesus? What if somebody never has the opportunity in our year and our time on our map, or perhaps off the map, even, to understand the good news of Jesus?
- Notice that Paul says the gospel has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, just maybe 20 or 30 years after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.
- But just looking around and seeing the glory of God, recognizing the need for a creator, doesn't help you understand necessarily the blood of Jesus being shed on the cross.

1 God's Law Always Applies to All People

Acts 10:1–3; Acts 10:34–35; Acts 22

- God's law absolutely always applies to all people.
- No one has ever been lost because of ignorance. Everyone who is separated from God is lost because we have chosen to sin and violate God's will.
- But we are separated from our God when we sin. And regardless of our background, we are responsible for keeping the law of God.
- Truly I understand that God shows no partiality. But in every nation, anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

2 God Had a Plan for the Message to Spread

Acts 1:6–8; Isaiah 55:8–9; Romans 6:23

- God had a plan. Jesus reveals that plan for the message to spread.
- You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judea and Samaria. And notice this last phrase as well, and to the end of the earth.
- God's plan is better than our plan. God's ways, as Isaiah 55 would write, are better than our ways.
- God's plan of salvation works. God's plan for getting the message about salvation out works as well.

3 God Is in Control

Acts 1:7

- God has authority. God has control because it's his creation.
- The gospel spreads in ways we couldn't even imagine.
- But God, who knows his creation, is in control. We don't need to limit him.

4 His Love Is Greater Than Ours; God Will Judge

2 Peter 3:8–9; Acts 17:30–31

- The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise that some count slowness, but is patient towards you. Why? Not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come unto repentance.
- God is a just God. He is a loving God. And he's capable of making these judgments himself.
- The times of ignorance, God has overlooked. But now he commands all people everywhere to repent.
- If nothing else, trust that God will be able to sort this out.

5 Jesus Is the Only Path to Salvation

John 14:6; Acts 4:11–12

- The gospel message is very clear that Jesus is the only path to salvation.
- I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- There is salvation in no one else. For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.
- If it was true that somebody could be saved without the gospel message of Jesus. Wouldn't we be doing them harm by teaching Jesus to them?

6 We Must Spread the Gospel to All

Mark 16:15

- One startling conclusion of any lesson that focuses on this topic is that I, we must spread the gospel to all.
- Guess who better be at the very front lines of trying to teach the lost? It better be me.
- How can I ever think about going somewhere like that? If I won't even talk to my coworker or neighbors about the good news of Jesus Christ?
- Yes, there is sin, but more importantly, there is a Savior who wants to deliver you from sin.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **There is the wise man who builds his house on the rock. He's the one who heard and did the words of Christ. The foolish man was the one who did hear, but never kept them. Which camp am I in?**

MY NOTES