

(14) 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!” (Isaiah 52:7)

(16) But they have not all obeyed the Gospel. For Isaiah says,

“Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” (Isaiah 53:1)

(17) So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ.

(18) But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for,

“Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.”

(Psalm 19:4)

(19) But I ask, did Israel not understand? First, Moses says,

“I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry.” (Deuteronomy 32:21)

(20) Then Isaiah is so bold as to say,

“I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me.” (Isaiah 65:1)

(21) But of Israel He says,

“All day long I have held out My hands to a disobedient and contrary people.”

(Isaiah 65:2)

Think on These Things

- 1) Vs. 14-15 are rhetorical questions. Rather than answering just one question, the sequence is important. Questions are the answers to questions: How can people be saved if they don't believe? How can they believe if they haven't heard? How can they hear unless someone tells them? Who will send someone to tell them? So, your questions now are, “What is it that people need to hear? In whom do they need to believe?” (vs. 9-10)

- 2) Quoting Isaiah 52:7, how are folks who share God's “good news” described? What do you think the reference to feet is about?

- 3) V. 16 is quoted from Isaiah 53:1. Read Isaiah 53:1-12, and write down what this passage of the Bible is all about? Does it surprise you that it begins with, "Who has believed our message?" Why would the Jews NOT believe this 'message'?

- 4) How does one come to believe the Gospel message? Understanding this, what is your role in sharing your faith with others?

- 5) Do the Jews understand what God is doing (vs. 18-19)?

- 6) What is God's purpose in causing 'jealousy' in the Jews by saving Gentiles from around the world? Do you think it is working to bring them back to Him? (See Romans 11:25). The key is to understand that this strategy was not a surprise; God announced He was going to do this in the Old Testament! (Deuteronomy 32:21 and Isaiah 65:1)

- 7) Can you sense the disappointment in God's voice from v. 21? God sees Himself as the Father of Israel, but His child persists in rejecting Him and His ways. Parents get broken hearts the very same way! Do you think we Christians can be just as difficult as the Jews for God to work with? Any ideas for a solution?

People and situations I want to pray for this week: