



“As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” So, faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.”

Romans 10:15b-17

“As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.”

Mark 16:5-8

When I was in 8th grade, prior to my confirmation it was important that my class learn these words: *“I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith.”* Words right out of the Small Catechism and written by Luther himself. Words that were supposed to bring definition to this whole thing known as faith; that as an 8th grader you are still trying to comprehend. It would be years later in college, and later seminary, when my understanding of these words would really bloom and gain traction.

We are in a kind of partnership with God when it comes to faith. Make no mistake, faith is not something we can muster up on our own, it is a gift that comes only from the Holy Spirit. But the Holy Spirit doesn't just go around plopping faith into people. Faith comes from what is heard.

It may not be the most efficient delivery system, but the Holy Spirit uses us to bring others to faith. And yet, being reluctant to talk about our faith is as old as the women at the empty tomb in Mark's gospel who “said nothing to anyone” after the angels instructed them to share the good news of Christ's resurrection. And yet the word got out, didn't it?

God is going to get the good news out, whether we go along with it or not. But wouldn't we rather be part of it?

In these next weeks, months, and what follows, I believe that it will be important for us to get the word out. A virus has kept far too many of us silent when it comes to faith and sharing the story of Christ in our lives; being that everyday living reminder. We have been separated and silenced to a greater degree than many of us have ever known. My hope as we find life starting to re-open and re-configure is that, as believers and followers, we are ready to make up for lost time. In fact, I pray that our voices and our lives are louder than they have ever been. That we are ready and eager to share our faith and the realities of our God with the world in which we live.

Prayer

Gracious God, who will hear the good news of your love from me today? Who will receive faith because your Holy Spirit showed your love through me? Give me trust to keep sharing your love. Help me to get the word out.

Amen