

Taking It Home:

- The last few messages from Pastor Matthew have been designed to bring awareness of giving our best to God because God is so good to us; raising up worshippers of God; celebrating the goodness of God; teaching about the truth and majesty about God's Word; demonstrating what genuine God-designed community looks like; and sending out all believers to carry the Gospel truth of Jesus Christ to our unsaved community and world. How have these messages personally impacted you or your family? What adjustments have you made to personally apply these messages to your heart?
- READ Matthew 22:37-39. According to Jesus, Himself what are the two greatest commandments? Do you truly love God (Greek: agape – “unconditional, sacrificial love)? Do you truly love others as yourself? The demonstration of the “greatest love” according to Jesus in John 15:12 is: “this is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.”
- Trusting Jesus Christ as Savior is the ONLY cure for the 100% fatal cancer called sin (Rom. 6:23a). Salvation through Jesus Christ is like a wonder drug that heals the cancer of sin 100% of the time. The same way you'd want to share with the entire world about a wonder drug that cured cancer 100% of the time, so believers should desire to share with the world the 100% cure for the cancer of sin with the ONLY cure, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior! What is stopping you from sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the unsaved people whom you know?
- **Personal Challenge** – Prayer for several people that you will invite to Easter services on April 8.

Related Resources

- David Platt, *“Radical, Taking Back your Faith from the American Dream”*, Multnomah books

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew's sermon points, visit pastormatthew.net and click on the “Write This Down” tab.

Living Above and Beyond
Taking God's Story Above and Beyond
Romans 10:9-15

Dr. Matthew R. St. John
Bethel Church
February 19, 2012

Taking God's Story Above and Beyond

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelfc.com.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of February 19, 2012

Romans 10:9-15

Quick Review: Because all of God's work is good, we desire to multiply his fame and favor broadly. We desire to multiply the rich blessing which is our fellowship with Christ among still others. We deserve to elevate God's fame. We want people to enjoy God's special favor-salvation and all that means.

My Story:

- Share a time when a family member or friend couldn't wait to talk to you about something they had experienced because they thought it was so fantastic? The experience was so great that they wanted you to personally experience it too. Did you end up personally sharing their "fantastic" experience because your family member or friend was so convincing? Discuss.
- If you knew about a cure for cancer that was 100% substantiated as legitimate, would you desire to tell people who had cancer about the cure? Why?
- Was there anything in today's message that was confusing, challenging or convicting?

Growing Deeper:

- Pastor Matthew laid out the context of Romans 10:9-15 from Apostle Paul's declaration to the believers in the city of Rome. **READ Romans 10:9-10:** How important is it for people to **acknowledge and believe** (Greek: *pisteuo* – "Saving faith in Jesus") that Jesus Christ is Lord (Greek: *kurios* – "Master") and that God raised Him from the dead (resurrection)? Discuss.
- Assuming you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior, share your personal testimony. Who first told you about the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Was the person who told you the "Good News" about Jesus a family member, friend, co-worker, Sunday school teacher, pastor, etc? Did you trust Jesus Christ as Savior the first time you heard the Gospel? What finally brought you to making the decision to "*confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved?*" Share.

Growing Deeper Continued:

- Why is it important, according to the passages in Romans 10:9-15, for believers to share the Gospel with people who are not Christians? READ Romans 10:14-15. What if all Christians failed to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the unsaved? Where would you be right now if someone hadn't told you the "Good News" of Jesus?
- READ Matthew 28:19-20 (The Great Commission). The vision statement of Bethel Church is, "To make disciples of Jesus Christ and train them to live like Christ, love like Christ and to lead like Christ." What does it mean to "make disciples?" Was it Jesus' intention for His Great Commission to be meant only for some Christians to make disciples or for all Christians to make disciples? Discuss.
- Pastor Matthew mentioned that the Core Values of Bethel Church are Authenticity, Availability and Accountability. READ Isaiah 6:5-8. In what way was Isaiah being an Authentic believer? In what way was Isaiah Available to the Lord? Accountable to the Lord? Though profoundly aware of his sin, was Isaiah available to serve the Lord? How about Bethel Church? How about you?
- "Missional Community" is a new "Buzz word" within the Evangelical Christian Church of America. READ Isaiah 6:8 & Romans 10:14-15; & 17. After reading those passages, what do you think the words "Missional Community" really means? Could it mean being available to share the Gospel of Christ and "make disciples" in our community or in our personal realm of influence? Discuss.
- Why was Isaiah so humbly available to share the truth about God to the very sinful nation of Israel? Do you think Isaiah was giving God 50% of His availability, or did Isaiah give 100% of Himself to God; fully surrendered? What does it mean to be a true disciple of Jesus'; fully surrendered to Him; being fully authentic, available and accountable to Him? (Cf. Matthew 10:38; Luke 9:23; Luke 14:25-33; John 17:18).