

**KXEG Radio Shows**  
**Lesson 6 of 26**

**ANNOUNCER INTRODUCTION (0:30)**

Welcome to “God Cares For You,” a series of radio broadcasts featuring Pastor Rory Clark of Barah Ministries...a worldwide Christian Church in Mesa, AZ...Pastor Rory teaches the truth of the Word of God in a simple way that is easy to apply to your everyday life...here’s Pastor Rory Clark.

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**SHOW TEASER (0:40)**

Go on a journey of the imagination with me. Imagine you are out of work. You have a job interview with an amazing company, and all the indicators are that you will get the job. You have a final interview with the President of the company at a hotel you have never been to. You're not very good at directions, so you ask two of your friends for directions. They are both familiar with the hotel. Each of them gives you directions, so you have two sets of written directions to the destination. Which one will you choose? So it is with the spiritual life. You have two choices of direction. Which directions will you follow? Welcome to the program.

**TODAY'S LESSON (0:00 with the song)**

**The Tale of Two**

Charles Dickens was a British author in the 1800's and one of his most famous works was *The Tale of Two Cities*. Here's how the book begins...

It was the best of times...  
It was the worst of times...

It was the age of wisdom...  
It was the age of foolishness...

It was the epoch of belief...  
It was the epoch of unbelief...

It was the season of Light...  
It was the season of Darkness...

It was the spring of hope...  
It was the winter of despair...

We had everything before us...  
We had nothing before us...

We were all going direct to heaven...  
We were all going direct the other way...

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The opening lines of *The Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens outlines beautifully the choices we have as human beings in the spiritual life. It is “The Tale of Two.” We continue our study of Paul’s letter to the Romans, and as we transition from chapter one to chapter two, a transition lesson is in order...and the number two, for chapter two, comes right to the center of the mind. This lesson is “The Tale of Two.”

Let’s finish our story, our journey of the imagination, concerning the two friends and the two sets of directions. You are out of work. You have set up a job interview with an amazing company, and all the indicators are that you will get the job. You have a final interview with the President of the company at a hotel you have never been to. You’re not very good at directions, so you ask two of your friends for directions. They are both familiar with the hotel. Each of them gives you written directions to the destination. You have two choices for the route you will take. Which one will you choose?

One friend, you would describe as your **BEST FRIEND**. You trust him and he always gives good advice. Always. One friend is a **GOOD FRIEND**. You and your **GOOD FRIEND** have a lot of fun together. Yet you have always had a bit of suspicion that this friend is jealous of you. Yet every time the thoughts creep in, the two of you will do something fun together and the thoughts go to right to the back burner.

Interview day is here. You have a busy life. You have a busy schedule. You are in a rush as usual. So you have to decide which set of directions to take. Your good friends direction are the handiest. Since you think the two sets of directions are probably about the same, you grab the good friend’s directions and rush out the door.

Okay let’s stop for a minute...because I know you high tech people out there might be saying, “Why didn’t the idiot just put the hotel’s address in the GPS?” To you I say, hindsight is 20/20. There is always a solution to every problem, yet in the heat of the moment, we do what we do.

Now back to the story.

You rush out the door with your **GOOD FRIEND’S** directions, not your **BEST FRIENDS** directions.

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Disaster.

The good friend's directions lead to a dead end. You miss the interview. You lose the job. You go home in a state of disbelief. You sit at home in a state of shock. You missed a golden opportunity.

So it is for most of us in the spiritual life when we follow the wrong directions. Disaster.

When you finally recover from the shock, you get in the car and you follow the directions of your best friend. Within a reasonable time, the directions lead you right to the hotel's front door.

Later that day, your GOOD FRIEND calls to ask, "How did those directions work out?" He is chuckling. You ask, "What's so funny?" He says, "I hope those directions weren't too important for you. They lead to a dead end. Hilarious, huh? Did you follow them?" You tell him, "Yes." He laughs hysterically. Funny to him...a disaster for you.

So it is for all of us in the spiritual life. "The Tale of Two." Two beings...Satan and the Lord Jesus Christ. Two offers...two sets of directions...one from Satan and one from God. Two judgments...the Great White Throne Judgment and the Judgment Seat of Christ. Always two clear choices. Which one will you choose in "The Tale of Two?"

So as we move into Romans, Chapter 2, sitting squarely between the two chapters, let's see what there is to see. The first section of Paul's letter to the Romans is the introduction, Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 1 to Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 17. The second section of Paul's letter to the Romans outlines the consequences of unbelief, Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 18 to Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 20.

In the last five radio broadcasts, all of which are in the broadcast library of this radio station at 1280KXEG.com, we completed Romans Chapter 1. Here's what we learned. We learned that God has good news for you. In Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 8, the apostle Paul says...

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Romans 1:8

*First, I (Paul) thank my God the Father through Jesus Christ for you all (all the saints...all the believers at Rome), because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.*

God the Father sent His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to the Cross so that you could be saved. John, Chapter 3, Verse 17...

John 3:17

*For God the Father did not send the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.*

We learned that God the Father uses people to spread the gospel message, and the apostle Paul was God the Father's hand picked choice to spread the gospel message among the Gentiles. Paul is a Jew...yet his ministry is to the Gentiles. And as we learned, Paul is the worst person of all time. First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verse 9...

First Corinthians 15:9

*For I (Paul) am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.*

Paul's goal was to singlehandedly wipe out the Christian Church. God the Father communicates clearly to us through His selection of Paul to spread the good news of the gospel message that He does not require us to be perfect to do His work. Our perfect God works through quite imperfect people.

We learned that God wants the good news to get to everyone, and He makes sure it happens, even getting the message to the poor little children in the middle of Africa. Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 20...

Romans 1:20

*For since the creation of the world the Lord Jesus Christ's invisible attributes, His eternal power and His divinity (the established and irrevocable fact that He is God), have been clearly seen by all mankind, and keep on being manifested through what has been made in the entire created universe, so that all creatures (especially those practicing ungodliness and unrighteousness) are without excuse in the matter of knowing God.*

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As a Pastor, I love passing on the good news of the gospel message to anyone willing to hear it. Yet as Pastors, we must be equally willing to pass on the bad news...in Second Timothy, Chapter 4, Verses 1 to 5, Paul warns Pastors that they must be willing to communicate the good news and the bad news...

Second Timothy 4:1

*I (Paul) solemnly charge you (Timothy) in the presence of God (the Father) and (in the presence) of Christ Jesus (the Lord), who is to judge the living and the dead, and (I charge you) by His appearing (at the second coming of Christ) and (by) His (Millennial) kingdom...*

Second Timothy 4:2

*...to preach the Word (of God); be ready (to preach it) in season (when people are ready to hear it) and (be ready to preach it) out of season (when people don't want to hear it); reprove (those in error), rebuke (those who are sinning), exhort (those who need encouragement), (and do it) with great patience and (with accurate) instruction.*

Second Timothy 4:3

*For the time will come when they will not endure sound (and accurate) teaching; but (instead), wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires (to be told what they want to hear)...*

Second Timothy 4:4

*...and will turn away their ears from the truth and will (instead) turn aside to (the) myths (the heresies being propagated by false teachers).*

Second Timothy 4:5

*But you (Timothy), be sober in all things, endure (this) hardship, do the work of an evangelist (preaching the gospel at every opportunity), fulfill your ministry.*

An easy application of these verses from one of the apostle Paul's Pastoral Epistles, called Second Timothy, point squarely to the second major passage in the book of Romans...Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 18 to Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 20. This passage can easily be thought of as bad news by most, because it highlights the consequences of unbelief...the consequences for

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those who reject a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, the God who offers them the gift of salvation.

You know...when I think about what is important to me in life...when I think about what makes me want to be a Pastor...what makes me spend countless hours sitting and researching and typing and then standing and preaching...it's this...I just want you to be saved. Let me repeat that. I just want you to be saved. I want you to hear the good news and believe in it...Romans, Chapter 1, Verses 16 and 17...

Romans 1:16

*FOR I (Paul) am not ashamed of the gospel of God the Father...FOR the gospel of God the Father is the power of the Father being offered for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first (chronologically), and also to the Greek (Gentiles).*

Romans 1:17

*FOR in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ the righteousness of God the Father is revealed, from faith (in the Lord for salvation) to faith (in the Lord for all things); as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man (the believer in Christ) SHALL LIVE BY FAITH (by placing his complete confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ)."*

I want you to accept and to take advantage of the good news.

To do an effective job as a Pastor, I have to tell you the bad news as well...the consequences of unbelief. Romans, Chapter 1, Verses 18 to 32...

Romans 1:18

*FOR the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and (against all) unrighteousness of men (who are unbelievers) who suppress the truth (of the gospel) in unrighteousness...*

Romans 1:19

*...because that which is known about God is evident within (those who practice ungodliness and unrighteousness); for God made (the knowledge of God) evident to them.*

Romans 1:20

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*For since the creation of the world the Lord Jesus Christ's invisible attributes, His eternal power and His divinity (the established and irrevocable fact that He is God), have been clearly seen by all mankind, and keep on being manifested through what has been made in the entire created universe, so that all creatures (especially those practicing ungodliness and unrighteousness) are without excuse in the matter of knowing God.*

**Romans 1:21**

*For even though those practicing ungodliness and unrighteousness (unbelievers) knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give Him thanks, but instead those practicing ungodliness and unrighteousness became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

**Romans 1:22**

*Professing to be wise, those practicing ungodliness and unrighteousness (unbelievers) became fools...*

**Romans 1:23**

*...and they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and in the form of birds in the form of four-footed animals and in the form of crawling creatures.*

**Romans 1:24**

*Therefore GOD GAVE THEM OVER (those practicing ungodliness and unrighteousness) in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.*

**Romans 1:25**

*For they (those practicing ungodliness and unrighteousness) exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

**Romans 1:26**

*For this reason (the worship of creatures rather than the Creator) GOD GAVE THEM OVER to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural...*

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Romans 1:27

*...and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.*

Romans 1:28

*And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, GOD GAVE THEM OVER to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper...*

Romans 1:29

*...being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips...*

Romans 1:30

*...slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents...*

Romans 1:31

*...without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful...*

Romans 1:32

*...and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.*

“The Tale of Two.” Two offers...one from Satan and one from God. The set of directions Satan offers you lead to a dead end. John, Chapter 8, Verse 44...

John 8:44b

*...Satan was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

Satan is like the GOOD FRIEND who gives the directions that lead to a dead end.

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The set of directions from God for how to be saved lead you to the resurrection life...eternal life...to the heaven hotel...Acts, Chapter 16, Verse 31...

Acts 16:31

*“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and everyone in your household who also believes.”*

John, Chapter 14, Verse 6...

John 14:6

*Jesus said to doubting Thomas, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through believing in Me.”*

The Lord Jesus Christ, who is God, says in John, Chapter 3, Verse 36...

John 3:36

*“He who believes in the Son has eternal life (the resurrection life); but he who does not obey the (command to believe in the) Son will not see (the resurrection) life, but instead the wrath of God the Father abides on him.”*

Believe Him and be saved.

God sits aloft the throne of the universe as the Supreme Authority...the Supreme Judge...an impartial observer of the facts in the case of each of our lives. One day we will sit before the Righteous Judge at one of two judgments.

The unbeliever will meet the Lord Jesus Christ at the Great White Throne Judgment. Revelation, Chapter 20, Verses 11 to 15...

Revelation 20:11

*Then I saw a great white throne and the Lord Jesus Christ who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them to live.*

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Revelation 20:12

*And I saw the dead, the great (famous) and the small (the not so famous), standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.*

Revelation 20:13

*And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.*

Revelation 20:14

*Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.*

Revelation 20:15

*And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

The believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, on the other hand, will meet the Lord Jesus Christ at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Second Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 10...

Second Corinthians 5:10

*For we believers in Christ must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed (compensated) for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

Which set of the two sets of directions will you follow in this life? No matter what set of directions you choose, God is looking for you. Here's a song from Barah Ministries Song Worship Leader June Murphy concerning the fact that God is looking for you... YOU RAN AFTER ME.

SONG

You Ran After Me

June Murphy

3:31

The Lord Jesus Christ is running after you. Will you let him catch you? Or will you follow the wrong set of directions?

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Luke, Chapter 15, Verses 3 to 7...

Luke 15:3

*So the Lord Jesus Christ told them this parable, saying...*

Luke 15:4

*“What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?”*

Luke 15:5

*“When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.”*

Luke 15:6

*“And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’”*

Luke 15:7

*“I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”*

Two beings...Satan, the creature, and the Lord Jesus Christ, the Creator; two sets of directions...two offers...Satan’s “you can go your own way” offer or the Lord Jesus Christ’s good news offer of the gospel message, believe in Christ and be saved...one offer leads to a dead end and one offer leads to life; two judgments...the Great White Throne or the Judgment Seat of Christ...you will meet your maker...and in the next chapter, Romans, Chapter 2, two lifestyles....the religious lifestyle of the Christian Way of Life. Romans, Chapter 2, Verse 1...

Romans 2:1

*Therefore you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.\*

Which one will you choose in “The Tale of Two?”

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#### **THE INVITATION (1:00)**

This radio broadcast is an invitation for you to worship with us, either as part of our resident congregation, where you come in person to worship with us every week, or as a member of our non-resident congregation who worship with us through the magic of radio and the magic of the internet. If you're a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, we also invite you to support us with your spiritual gift, which is to be used to build up others in the body of Christ. Are you using yours? Finally, we invite you to support us with your financial gifts. Everything provided by Barah Ministries is provided free of charge to the recipients, but it is not free of cost. So we hope that if you find this radio program to be valuable to your spiritual life, that you are motivated to contribute financial gifts that help us to continue to provide biblical resources to others who can't afford them. If you're looking for a spiritual home, we hope you'll consider Barah Ministries. Thanks for listening.

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**ANNOUNCER OUTRO (0:40)**

You've been listening to Pastor Rory Clark of Barah Ministries, a worldwide Christian Church in Mesa, AZ. Pastor Rory teaches face-to-face lessons twice a week. For more information, especially on meeting locations, go to the Barah Ministries website at [www.barahministries.com](http://www.barahministries.com).

That's [www.B-A-R-A-H-ministries.com](http://www.B-A-R-A-H-ministries.com).

The "God Cares for You" radio broadcast can be heard every Sunday from 9:30am to 10:00am right here on KXEG, 1280 on your AM radio dial.