If you're in the resident congregation, turn off your electronic devices and put them away. Let this be a place where you aren't distracted by the world.

Welcome To BARAH MINISTRIES a Christian Church Rory Clark Pastor-Teacher

Good Morning!

Welcome to Barah Ministries...a small, intimate, and local Christian Church with a worldwide impact. My name is Pastor Rory Clark. At Barah Ministries, our God is the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We make a difference by teaching the Word of God from God's perspective, and not from man's perspective.

# **TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON - The Lord is Counting on Cowards to Evangelize**

Are you the Cowardly Christian? You can tell very easily by simply asking yourself the last time you shared the gospel message with an unbeliever. If you're not sharing the good news concerning what the Lord Jesus Christ did at the Cross to save the whole world, including you, what's holding you back? In today's lesson, you'll learn how easy it is to tell people about your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In addition...just as we do every month... we'll celebrate The Lord's Supper...at the Cross, the LIVING GOD taught us how to live.

## **SONG INTRO**

It's such a pleasure to study the Word of God because it is something that lasts...it's something that endures...Isaiah, Chapter 40, Verses 7 and 8 say...

#### **ISAIAH 40:7**

The wild grass withers...and the wildflower fades...when the breath of the Lord blows upon it...well, surely the people are like wild grass.

Why? Because in the heat of life's tribulations, quite often we wither...

## **ISAIAH 40:8**

Yes...the wild grass withers...and the wildflower fades...but the Word of our God stands forever.

As believers in Christ, we know that the Word of God is the exact thinking of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In prayer, we ask God to give us a lot of things...yet often we forget to be grateful for what we have. One thing we have is a relationship with Jesus Christ. Here's Unspoken with a reminder in song...JUST GIVE ME JESUS.

## MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

JUST GIVE ME JESUS Unspoken

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray...

We're grateful, Heavenly Father, for the privilege of studying Your absolute truth...the Word of God...

Father, thank you for giving us a way to reach people with your inerrant and infallible Word...thank you for giving us life...thank you for teaching us how to live...

Help us to let the life you have placed in us shine as a beacon in the kingdom of death and darkness here on earth, and help us to be an inspiration to others and a magnet to Your salvation offer in this lost and dying world...

...we ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit...in Christ's name...Amen.

# **TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON - The Lord is Counting on Cowards to Evangelize**

What is a coward?

## **COWARD**

A person who lacks courage when facing danger, difficulty, opposition, or pain...a person who is timid or easily intimidated...a person who is paralyzed by fear.

Are you a coward when it comes to telling people about your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? Worse...are you apathetic about sharing the gospel message with others?

Let's take an introductory look at the next passage of study in Romans, Chapter 15, beginning at Verse 14...in it, the apostle Paul talks about his evangelism efforts to a group of people he had never met...

## **ROMANS 15:14**

And concerning you, my brethren (all believers in Christ, but specifically the Christians at first century Rome)...I myself also stand absolutely convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness...having been filled with all knowledge (a basic understanding of Christianity)...and you are able also both to counsel and to admonish one another (you're in a position to share these truths with competence).

#### **ROMANS 15:15**

But I wrote very boldly to you on some points so as to remind you again (repetition), because of the grace that was given me from God the Father...

# **ROMANS 15:16**

...to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles...ministering as a priest the gospel of God...so that my offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable to God...sanctified by God the Holy Spirit.

#### **ROMANS 15:17**

Therefore, in union with Christ Jesus I have found reason for boasting in things pertaining to God the Father.

#### **ROMANS 15:18**

For I (Paul) will not presume to speak of anything except what (supernatural things) Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the

obedience of the Gentiles (to the gospel message) by the Word I have said to them and by the deeds I have done for them...

#### **ROMANS 15:19**

...in the power of signs and wonders...in the power of the Spirit...so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum (from Jerusalem in a full circle)...I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

## **ROMANS 15:20**

And thus, I aspired to preach the gospel...not where Christ was already known, so that I would not build on another man's foundation (of preaching the gospel)...

## **ROMANS 15:21**

...but as it is written, "They who had no news of Him shall see...and they who have not heard shall understand."

Are you a cowardly Christian? Are you afraid to evangelize? Well it's easy to be afraid. Maybe you let the number one fear of all people get in the way...the fear of speaking in public. Maybe you're afraid you don't know enough about God to evangelize...that you won't be able to answer every question a person asks. Maybe you are concerned that because of your own sins and failures, you'll be perceived as a hypocrite. Maybe you're worried about the reaction of other people to your message.

This isn't real fear. Your life isn't in danger from any of these things. So this is really psychic fear...it's manufactured fear...a fear of what *might* happen which usually never does.

I was evangelizing to a man last night at a party, probably the worst place to evangelize because alcohol is occasionally involved. It wasn't in this case, but I would think that if alcohol was involved, especially if *you* had been drinking, it actually would increase your courage. ©

Once you begin to evangelize, you start to hear the same things over and over, which really makes it easy to evangelize. I'd like to give you three steps that make it easy to evangelize.

Step One SHUT UP AND LISTEN

Everyone has a story about God. This person's story was typical. He thinks religion is man-made. He described himself as more spiritual than religious. He thinks that getting to know God is a deep process of endless study to really be sure that you get it right.

If you listen to people first, they'll let you know just what evangelism will get them to think.

Step Two
SAY SOMETHING THAT IS SHOCKING BUT TRUE

When other people get the courage to talk about spiritual things, they are just as afraid as you. They're afraid of talking about spiritual things in public... they fear they don't know enough...that they will sound stupid... that they will be perceived as a hypocrite. When you say something shocking to them, it takes the conversation to a whole new level.

I told this man that religion is not man-made. I told him it's Satan-made. I told him that Satan, the enemy of God, is always perpetrating an offense and then blaming someone else. I told him that people are not smart enough and not devious enough to come up with something as sophisticated as religion. I told him about my spiritual background as a Roman Catholic and as a Systematic Theologist, and how I found out that both were completely wrong.

I told him that all religions have two things in common. First, their stories are mostly true. IF I'm going to lie to you, the lie will be 95% true. It will be so true that you will never see the lie. That's religion. Second, they all claim that we have to work to please God. They all claim that to get to heaven, you have to do the work. Then I told him the truth...no ne one can work their way into heaven. Then I told him Acts, Chapter 16, Verse 31...

## ACTS 16:31

"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and everyone in your household who also believes."

He asked me who Satan is. I told him about Satan's background as the anointed cherub who covers...Jesus Christ's bodyguard. I told him how Satan got all the angels to turn on God. I told him that Satan is the most brilliant genius ever to come from the hand of God. I told him that about 65% of non-denominational Christians don't even believe Satan exists.

He asked me how I knew these things. I told him that all of this is in the bible and that I would be happy to take him on a one-hour tour of the bible to show him these things at another time. I told him that I have been studying the bible for thirty-one years.

He was every engaged. The tension level never elevated. Other people were listening, almost leaning into the conversation.

Step Three
GIVE THEM SOMETHING ACCURATE TO READ

The next step is to get him the gospel message in writing. Every week here at Barah Ministries, you hear the gospel message. You get printed notes with the accurate gospel message in them. It takes no courage to print the notes and to hand them to people. We also have a book, "AND YOU WILL BE SAVED." It's available in print or on the website.

Using bible verses is critical to evangelism, and they don't have to be memorized. Read them! It's easy to refute your opinion but it's impossible to refute the truth of the Word of God. If people reject what the bible says, I'm okay with it. At least they heard. I don't ever take it personally when people reject the gospel message because I know they are rejecting God... they are not rejecting me.

There is no reason for a person in Barah Ministries to be an evangelism coward. You have all the resources need to evangelize. This brief message is an encouragement to use the tools you have at your disposal.

Look...the Lake of Fire for all eternity is a long time. There are people I have met in this life that I don't like, but I don't want a single one of them to be in the Lake of Fire. Many of you have family members who are headed for the Lake of Fire. Don't let that be because you weren't brave enough to

give them the gospel. We'll learn more about this as we get deeper into the passage in our next lesson.

Let's take a five-minute break...when we come back, we'll take the offering...we'll enjoy the elements of The Lord's Supper...and we'll learn that the LIVING GOD wants us to live. Are you alive...or are you dead but just not buried? Let's find out when we come back.

## FIVE MINUTE BREAK

Unconditional Love Donna Summers

# **TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON - The Lord is Counting on Cowards to Evangelize**

Let's welcome Deacon Denny Goodall with the offering message.

## THE OFFERING

Deacon Denny Goodall

#### **OFFERING VERSE**

#### SECOND PETER 1:3

...seeing that the Lord Jesus Christ's divine power (omnipotence) has granted to us believers in Christ everything pertaining to the resurrection life and godliness (the Christian Way of Living...eusebeia)...through the true knowledge of Christ who called us (to the resurrection life and to the Christian Way of Living) through His own glory and excellence.

## **OFFERING SONG**

THERE IS NONE LIKE YOU David Bauer, Instrumental

# THE LORD'S SUPPER CELEBRATION At the Cross, the Lord Taught Us to Live

Welcome to The Lord's Supper Celebration, the most intimate expression of our love for the Lord Jesus Christ in The Christian Way of Living. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ demonstrates His desire for a deep, intimate and

personal relationship with His believers by creating a way to keep on sharing His body and His blood with us, just as He did with His apostles on the night before His death. Luke, Chapter 22, Verses 14 to 16...

## LUKE 22:14

When the hour had come (and His crucifixion was near)... the Lord Jesus Christ reclined at the Passover table...and the apostles reclined with Him.

# LUKE 22:15

And the Lord said to the apostles, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover meal with you before I suffer..."

## LUKE 22:16

"...for I say to you I (the Lord Jesus Christ) shall never again eat this Passover meal until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God the Father."

In First Corinthians, Chapter 11, Verse 26, the apostle Paul says, on behalf of the Lord...

#### FIRST CORINTHIANS 11:26

...as often as you eat this bread (His body)...and as often as you drink this cup (His blood)...as part of the Lord's Supper Celebration...you proclaim as a reality and you announce the significance of the Lord Jesus Christ's death on the Cross...and His resurrection from the dead...until He comes again at the second coming.

For non-resident congregation members, you are invited to join in the sharing of the communion elements with your resident congregation family. Get your own bread and your own cup and celebrate with us. We are in unity with one other...we are in fellowship with each other...so let's break the bread and drink the cup together in grateful remembrance of our Lord. This is a celebration for which we set aside time. We don't do it on the move. This is a happy time and a significant event in the Christian Way of Living.

During the Lord's Supper Celebration, the Lord Jesus Christ wants His believers to look back to REMEMBER how He rescued us from the kingdom of darkness. The Lord wants His believers to REMEMBER His sacrifice...how He shed His blood to cover our sins. The Lord Jesus Christ

wants His believers to REMEMBER the deliverance to the resurrection life He orchestrated, bringing us into His kingdom of light. Most of all, the Lord wants His believers to look forward with ANTICIPATION to His coming again.

As believers in Christ, when we celebrate The Lord's Supper, we stop to reflect. We ask ourselves, "What did the Lord Jesus Christ do for us at the Cross?"

At the Cross, the Lord taught us to live. Ironic isn't it? The Lord Jesus Christ *died* on a Cross so that we could live. This was the scene as He hung from a Cross about two hundred and twenty years ago.

## **CRUCIFIX**

His enemies thought they were triumphant because they successfully perpetrated a lie that sent Him to the Cross so that He would experience the worst form of death in human history...crucifixion. Luke, Chapter 23, Verse 46 says when His enemies heard...

#### LUKE 23:46

Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." Having said this, He breathed His last breath.

...they shouted for joy. They had won. Or so they thought. Three days later, the truth was made clear...Luke, Chapter 24, Verses 1 to 6...

## LUKE 24:1

But on the first day of the week (Sunday), at early dawn, the women came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared (to keep Jesus' body from decaying).

#### LUKE 24:2

And the women found the stone rolled away from the tomb...

#### LUKE 24:3

...and when they entered the tomb, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

## LUKE 24:4

While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men (angels) suddenly stood near them in dazzling white clothing...

## LUKE 24:5

...and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the Living One among the dead ones?

#### LUKE 24:6

Jesus is not here...but He has risen from the dead...

When I look back to the Cross, I see the LIVING GOD.

## **EMPTY CROSS**

He is no longer hanging from a Cross. I completely agree with Job...who says in Job, Chapter 19, Verse 25...

#### JOB 19:25

As for me, I (Job) know that my Redeemer lives...and at the last, He will take His stand on the earth.

The One who defends us...protects us...vindicates us...the One who died for us...the Lord Jesus Christ...still lives. The apostle Peter had it right... Matthew, Chapter 16, Verses 13 to 17...

## **MATTHEW 16:13**

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

#### **MATTHEW 16:14**

And the disciples said, "Some say you are John the Baptist...and others say you are Elijah...but still others say you are Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

#### **MATTHEW 16:15**

Jesus said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

## **MATTHEW 16:16**

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ (The Jewish Messiah)...you are the Son of the living God."

## **MATTHEW 16:17**

And Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona (Bar=Son of Jonah)...because flesh and blood (human beings) did not reveal this to you...but My Father who is in heaven revealed this to you."

What kind of life does God want us to live? He wants us to live lives of optimism. The Lord does not want us to live lives of despair. What is optimism?

## **OPTIMISM**

The tendency to look at the more favorable side of events and to expect favorable outcomes.

What is despair?

#### **DESPAIR**

A desperate feeling of hopelessness...the tendency to think things are not going to work out and that nothing can change circumstances.

As believers in Christ...even when we feel despair...even when we think we are dead...there is something living in us...the LIVING GOD. Colossians, Chapter 1, Verses 25 to 27...

## COLOSSIANS 1:25

Of this church, I (Paul) was made a minister according to the stewardship from God the Father that is bestowed on me for your benefit...so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the Word of God...

## **COLOSSIANS 1:26**

...that is, the preaching of the mystery which has been hidden from past ages and generations...but has now been manifested (made clearly visible) to His (Church Age) saints...

## **COLOSSIANS 1:27**

...to whom God the Father willed to make known what are the glorious riches of this mystery among the Gentiles...which is Christ indwelling you...the hope of glory.

The Lord Jesus Christ has gifted His believers with lives of optimism...lives of hope. The Lord brags in the Word of God about His deep, intimate and personal involvement in our lives. He uses words to describe what He does for us...He demonstrates...He delivers...He is a rewarder...He hears... He answers. Romans, Chapter 5, Verse 8...

## **ROMANS 5:8**

But God the Father DEMONSTRATES His own unconditional love toward all mankind, in that while we were yet sinners (while we were ungodly, unrighteous, unbelievers)...Christ died instead of us.

Psalm 97, Verse 10...

## PSALM 97:10

Hate evil, you who love the Lord...this Lord who preserves the souls of His godly ones (believers in Christ)...the Lord DELIVERS them from the hand of the wicked.

Hebrews, Chapter 11, Verse 6...

#### **HEBREWS 11:6**

And without faith it is impossible to please God the Father...for he who comes to God the Father must believe that He exists and that He is a REWARDER of those who seek Him.

Psalm 34, Verse 17...

#### PSALM 34:17

The righteous cry...and the Lord HEARS...and the Lord delivers them out of all their troubles.

Genesis, Chapter 25, Verse 21...

## **GENESIS 25:21**

Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was barren...and the Lord ANSWERED him and Rebekah his wife conceived.

We can be optimistic because we are alive, and because the LIVING GOD is on our side.

I love the memory of the Cross. I love looking back to the Cross. There are so many things our LIVING GOD is communicating to us through His Cross. And it is always a pleasure to celebrate each month, bringing our Lord into our memory centers.

A final word...you have a choice of how you look at God. If you see Him as a vindictive punisher, God is dead to you even though He lives. If you don't call on Him, you leave power for your life locked in a closet. This is the tendency of the Closet Christian.

If you see Him for who He is, a Person who loves you unconditionally and a Person who always has your best interests in mind every minute, then you know that He expects your life to be amazing...He thinks you're amazing... and He is going to help you have a life beyond your wildest dreams.

At the Cross, the LIVING GOD, the Lord, taught us to live. I'd suggest you get busy living or get busy dying.

# THE LORD'S SUPPER CELEBRATION Enjoying the Elements

Obeying God's command, we keep on celebrating Christ and His Cross on a regular basis. We eat to remember who He is as a PERSON. We drink to remember His WORK on the Cross...the voluntary sacrifice He made to deliver us. We remember with gratitude what God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ have done to save us. Matthew, Chapter 26, Verses 26 to 28...

## **MATTHEW 26:26**

While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take...eat...this is My body (which is being broken for you)."

## **MATTHEW 26:27**

And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you..."

## **MATTHEW 26:28**

"...for this is My blood...the blood of a new testament (a new covenant)... blood poured out for many for the forgiveness of their sins."

As you enjoy the bread and the cup, REMEMBER the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us keep on giving thanks that we are loved unconditionally and we are accepted fully by a Lord who is always there for us...the One on whom we depend. Let's keep on being transformed by His life...His death...His purial...His resurrection from the dead...and His Word.

## **SONG INTRO**

Philippians, Chapter 2, Verses 5 to 11 say this...

## PHILIPPIANS 2:5

Have this attitude in yourselves (like-mindedness)...the same attitude that was in Christ Jesus...

## PHILIPPIANS 2:6

...who, although He existed in the exact same essence as God the Father...did not regard His equality with God the Father as a thing to be seized and held onto (He willingly set aside self-will)...

# PHILIPPIANS 2:7

...instead, He emptied Himself...taking the form of a bond-servant (making Himself nothing)...and allowed Himself to be made in the likeness of men.

## PHILIPPIANS 2:8

Being found in (outward) appearance as a man (even though inwardly He was Deity)...He humiliated Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death...even death on a Cross.

#### PHILIPPIANS 2:9

For this reason, also, God the Father highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name...

## PHILIPPIANS 2:10

...so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow...of those who are in heaven...and of those who are on earth and under the earth...

## PHILIPPIANS 2:11

...and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Deity)...to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus Christ IS unconditional love in His Person...here's Jesus Culture to sing LOVE HAS A NAME.

# LORD'S SUPPER SONG

LOVE HAS A NAME Jesus Culture

## **GOD WANTS YOU!**

Make the Most Important Decision of Your Life

The closing moments of our study are for the benefit of anyone who does not have a personal relationship with the Sovereign God of the Universe, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We want you to know that GOD WANTS YOU.

When a person evangelizes to you, they are presenting a gospel message for your consideration. They know they cannot "convert" you, although the pressure you experience from some of them might feel like that's what they want to do. Most are simply giving you facts to consider...facts that you may or may not know.

For example, if you have ever had Jehovah's Witnesses come to your door, they are evangelizing to you. If you have ever had members of the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter-Day Saints come to your door, they are evangelizing to you. Unfortunately, both of those groups are inviting you to share eternity with them in the Lake of Fire, because neither of these groups believes that Jesus Christ is God. I have family members who are part of one of these religions, and in spite of my best evangelism efforts, my family members don't want to hear anything I have to say.

Many parents are leading their children to a destiny in the Lake of Fire. If you want to assess whether or not you're a good parent, just ask yourself a simple question...are you influencing your children to have a relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Sovereign God of the Universe? He is the only way to get to heaven...John, Chapter 14, Verse 6...

## JOHN 14:6

Jesus said to the doubting apostle, Thomas, "I am the way (to salvation), and I am the truth (through the gospel message...the Word of God), and I am the resurrection life...and no one comes to God the Father (in heaven) but through believing in Me."

If a gospel message makes it sound like you have to work to get to heaven, it's probably a false gospel message. Second Peter, Chapter 2, Verse 1 warns...

## **SECOND PETER 2:1**

...false prophets also arose among the people...just as there will also be false teachers among you...who will secretly introduce destructive heresies...even denying the Master (the Lord Jesus Christ) who bought them (to earth)...bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

Romans, Chapter 11, Verse 6 says we don't have to work to be saved...

#### **ROMANS 11:6**

...if salvation is by grace (a free gift from God)...and of course it is ...it is no longer on the basis of works ...otherwise, grace (as a free gift) is no longer grace (it is not free).

Romans, Chapter 4, Verse 4 says you CAN'T work for salvation...

#### ROMANS 4:4

Now to the one who works (for salvation), his wage (for his work) is not credited (to his account) as a favor (from the grace of God), but (his wage is credited) as what is due for the work.

Do you want to get to heaven free of charge? Acts, Chapter 16, Verse 31...

## ACTS 16:31

"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and everyone in your household who also believes."

John, Chapter 3, Verse 36 warns...

## **JOHN 3:36**

"He who believes in the Son has the resurrection life right at that moment... but he who does not obey the command to believe in the Son will not see the resurrection life...instead the wrath of God (the Lake of Fire) abides on him."

John, Chapter 3, Verse 17 highlights Jesus' mission...

#### JOHN 3:17

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

Who is this God who saves you? The apostle Paul describes the Lord Jesus Christ...in First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verses 3 and 4...

## FIRST CORINTHIANS 15:3

For I (Paul) delivered to you as of first importance what I also received... that it was Jesus Christ who died for our sins according to the Scriptures...

## FIRST CORINTHIANS 15:4

...and that He was buried...and that He was raised from the dead on the third day...according to the Scriptures...

Take the free gift of eternal life right now! There's no time to waste! God wants you. If you want to go to heaven when you close your eyes in this life, simply believe of the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. The Lord Jesus Christ's work at the Cross was the greatest demonstration of unconditional love in divine history. Here's June Murphy to honor that sacrifice with her song...DEMONSTRATED LOVE.

CLOSING SONG

DEMONSTRATED LOVE

June Murphy

# **CLOSING PRAYER**

Let us pray...

Thanks for coming!
Thanks for watching!
Thanks for listening!
www.barahministries.com