

Romans 15:17 – 21

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Life Lesson



Direction of Today's Talk

- GOD'S HEART FOR THE NATIONS



Direction of Today's Talk

- GOD'S HEART FOR THE NATIONS
- GOD'S HEAD START PROGRAM



Direction of Today's Talk

- GOD'S HEART FOR THE NATIONS
- GOD'S HEAD START PROGRAM
- GOD'S STRATEGIC PROGRAM TODAY



Direction of Today's Talk

- GOD'S HEART FOR THE NATIONS
- GOD'S HEAD START PROGRAM
- GOD'S STRATEGIC PROGRAM TODAY
- GOD'S INTERNATIONAL TROPHIES



Direction of Today's Talk

- GOD'S HEART FOR THE NATIONS
- GOD'S HEAD START PROGRAM
- GOD'S STRATEGIC PROGRAM TODAY
- GOD'S INTERNATIONAL TROPHIES
- GOD'S MESSAGE FOR US



God's Heart for the Nations

Genesis 12:2–3

I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and **all peoples on earth will be blessed** through you.



God's Heart for the Nations

Deuteronomy 4:6–7

Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "**Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.**"

What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him?

Attraction



Expansion

Isaiah 49:6

It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring **my salvation to the ends of the earth.**



God's Plan for Blessing All Peoples

- When Jesus the Messiah came...
- Jesus trained twelve and gave them marching orders
- In Galilee he said: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and **make disciples of all nations...**" (Matthew 28:18–19)
- Outside Jerusalem he said: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and **to the ends of the earth.**" (Acts 1:8)

God's Confidence Builder

- You have received the **power** or **ability** to represent Him in any relationships
- We are called to **share with other people** who Jesus is and what he has done
- This calling to share the good news of Jesus has the **whole world** as its scope.

Fulfilling God's Plan

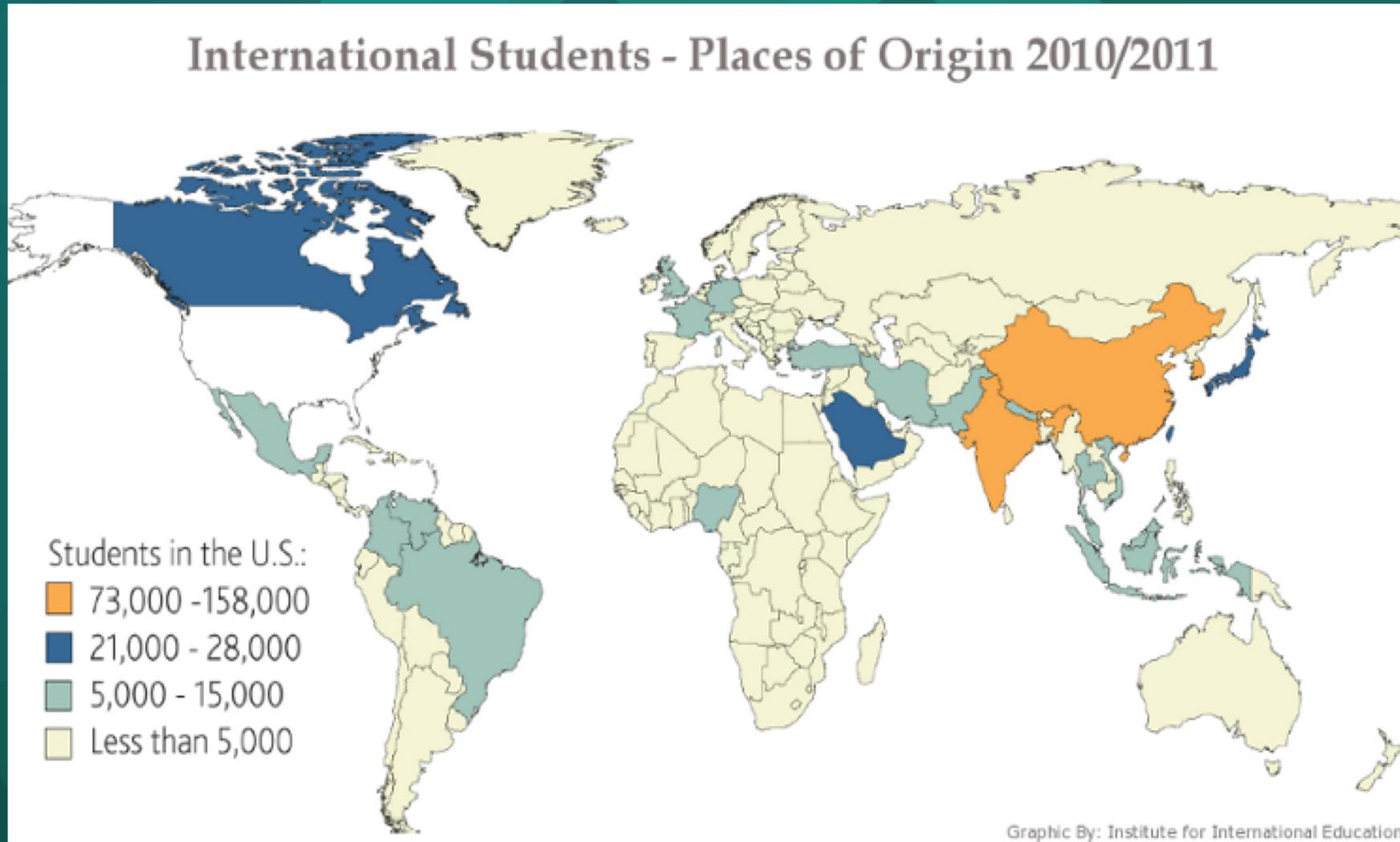
- It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. (Romans 15:20)
- What is your ambition?

Two Billion People Yet to be Reached



- Over 90% of all missionaries work among the already reached peoples.
- For every dollar of Christian resources less than one penny is directed at reaching those yet to be reached!!!
- But God has brought the nations to us

Students from over 150 Countries in the US



Obvious Advantages over Cross-cultural Missionaries

- They know the national language
- They understand the culture
- They already have natural relationships
- They will reach people for far less money than outside missionaries
- A family of four in San Diego is comfortable on \$64,000/year
- American missionary family of four in Japan \$90-100,000/year
- The international students are leaders
- International friends please stand



- 6000 international students from 100+ countries at UW Madison
- Can anyone be a missionary to 100 countries?
- How many of you can be missionaries in Saudi Arabia?
- In 2012 there were about 60 Saudi students at UW and Edgewood
- Is this today's Pentecost?
- Just be their friend and see what God does

Why We Have Difficulty Sharing the Good News

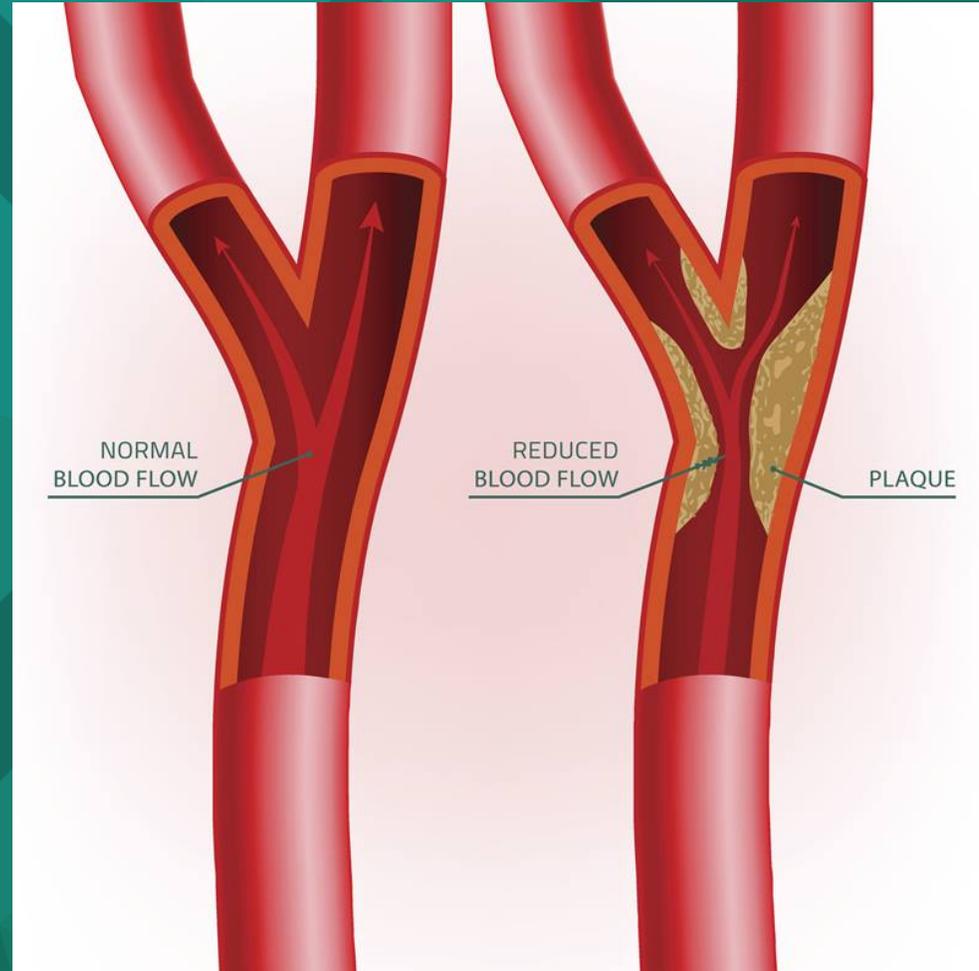
- The devil **hates** God, his gospel and his witnesses
- The devil **deludes** us into thinking people don't want to hear the good news
- He creates **fear** in us about beginning a gospel conversation

Why We Have Difficulty Sharing the Good News

- We don't know how to **love people**. 1 John 4:18 says "perfect **love** casts out fear"
- 2 Tim. 1:7 says, *For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (fear), but a spirit of power, of **love** and of self-discipline.*
- We don't have non-Christian friends

One More Reason

- Unrepented sin



If We Love People...

- we will live as Christ-followers
- we will serve people sacrificially if needed
- we will explain how Jesus made us this way
- that will cause people to either
consider Christ
not care
oppose you
- according to Open Doors, 215 million Christians experienced “high levels of persecution” in 2018

John 9:8-11



- Skeptics said he just looks like the blind man
- No, I'm the person who was blind
- *How were your eyes opened?*
- *The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."*
- In three sentences and 33 words, he shared what Jesus had done for him.

Overcoming Fear

- *As an international student from Iran, when I heard it was possible for the Lord Jesus to actually live his life in me, I asked him to do that. He's been changing my life for over 64 years.*
- Turn to the person sitting next to you and in two or three sentences express what Jesus has done for you
- Don't tell your life story
- Don't explain the Bible from Genesis to Revelation
- Don't share the whole gospel message
- In just 2 or 3 sentences share what Jesus has done for you
- For some, the honest answer may be "I don't know what Jesus has done for me. I'd like to find out more about him."
- You have 2 minutes



Meeting International Students

- A 60 year old lady in Malaysia went to the local campus three times a week,
- Sat on different benches and prayed, "Jesus would you send me an international student to talk to?"
- Within a year she was discipling a whole range of international students and still keeps in touch with them.
- If you have the **desire & availability, God will create a game plan**



Herman from UW



Ichwan from UW

The background is a dark teal color with a complex, low-poly geometric pattern. A large, semi-transparent, stylized letter 'S' is centered in the background, rendered in a lighter shade of teal. The text 'Hormoz Shariat' is overlaid on this 'S' shape.

Hormoz Shariat

How to Meet and Enjoy Them

- Pray that you will look at people like God does
- Pray that God will connect you with at least one international student
- When you see an international, just greet him or her
- Ask them, "What's it been like for you at UW?"
- "I'd love to hear your life story"
- If you don't have Jesus living in you yet...

Come into the Presence of God

- "Lord, what is one thing you are saying to me this morning?"
- Pray for the 2 billion people who have never heard about Jesus
- Pray for International students from hard-to-access countries to come to Christ along with their families
- Pray for an opportunity to meet an international student this week
- **Meet 1 or 2 after the service. Invite them to lunch. Learn from them.**