*“For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”* Romans 10:15

1. Introduction
   1. Preachers at Young-Dundas Square
      1. When I first came back to the city for university I shook my head at their antics – never understood the efficacy of shouting ‘believe’, ‘repent’, condemning the sin of those passing by
      2. Month after month, year after year these preachers persist – with no assurance of the success of their mission (in fact more ridicule and physical abuse than anything)
      3. Over time I have come to a certain appreciation for the commitment to preaching the word
      4. Persistence and perseverance essential in the Christian faith, even if we don’t always agree with their methods

*“But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?” –* Romans 10:14

1. Paul’s word in the context of his ministry
   1. Romans 9-11 is Paul’s tortured working out of what will happen with the nation of Israel
      1. They are elect by God, but have refused his Messiah
      2. Not only have they rejected the Messiah, but were either complicit in his murder or at the very least supportive of the persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire
      3. Paul is struggling with this, and so when he says the only thing necessary is to declare “Jesus is Lord” he is speaking to exactly what the people of Israel won’t say
2. Our own context – Sharing faith in our own Community
   1. Many of us are saddened or regret people in our lives who have not embraced Jesus as we have
      1. Maybe it is a child, a partner or spouse, a sibling or a good friend
      2. Maybe they have fallen away from the church, or maybe they never came
   2. We can become saddened and tormented just as Paul was by their lack of faith, their lack of church commitment
      1. Have we given up?
3. Paul’s response to his own context and our own – Keep going, keep trying, never give up
   1. Keep preaching about the Good News of Jesus
   2. Don’t give up on God’s chosen people
   3. Even if they persist in rejecting Jesus, it won’t be because they don’t know the alternative
   4. Verse 16 (cut off from our reading this morning) – reminds us that even this persistence in preaching doesn’t work
4. Precariousness of preaching/sharing our faith
   1. As a preacher I am well aware that proclaiming the faith is never a straight path – success is not measured in the short term
   2. Perhaps some of you have persisted in prayer, in sharing your faith but seen no fruit
   3. There is no guarantee that any of it will work, there is no fool proof way to share the good news and have it stick with people – no matter what someone might tell you

*“As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”* – Romans 10:15

1. But here’s the rub: Preaching/Proclamation/Sharing our Faith is all we have
   1. God has given us the privilege and the responsibility to proclaim the simplest message with both our way of life and our words – Jesus is Lord
   2. This good news, and our sharing of it – is the means by which God has ordained for his kingdom to breakthrough in the world
   3. Even those seemingly ineffectual preachers at Yonge/Dundas play their role.
2. We are called to persist in our lives of faith, persist in sharing the Good News with people – even when it seems pointless – because we can never truly know the effect
   1. Funeral yesterday – Pearl was committed to sharing her faith by word and deed as any – but wouldn’t have considered herself an evangelist
   2. And yet at that funeral it was clear that her life, her prayers, her words of testimony, had impacted far more people than she probably ever imagined
   3. Let us not be discouraged, let us persist in sharing our faith, - you never know what the Holy Spirit will do!