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## “Carriers”

“As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” (Mark 1:2-3)

### Being a Carrier

**Matthew 11:7-10** - (7) “As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? (8) What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. (9) What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. (10) This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my **messenger** before your face, who will prepare your way before you.”

**2 Corinthians 5:18-20** - (18) “All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; (19) that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the **message** of reconciliation. (20) Therefore, we are **ambassadors** (representatives or “**carriers**”) for Christ, God making his appeal **through us**. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

**Exodus 20:7** - “You shall not misuse (**carry**/take) the name of the Lord your God (In vain), for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.” (NIV)

**Matthew 12:31** - “Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.”

**Ephesians 4:29-30** - (29) “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. (30) And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

### Staying Connected

**Psalms 119:9-11** - “(9) How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. (10) With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! (11) I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”

**Romans 10:17** - “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

**Matthew 4:4** - “But he answered, “It is written, ““Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.””

**Hebrews 4:11-12** - (11) “Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. (12) For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

### His Responsibility

**Matthew 1:21** - “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

**John 6:28-32** - (28) "Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" (29) Jesus answered them, "**This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.**" (30) So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? (31) Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" (32) Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven."

**Romans 10:9-13** - (9) because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (11) For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." (12) For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. (13) For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

### **Your Responsibility**

**Luke 8:4-8** - (4) "And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, (5) "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. (6) And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. (7) And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. (8) And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold..."

**Romans 12:16** - "Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly."

**1 John 1:6** - "If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth."

**1 John 2:6** - "whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked."

**Philippians 1:27** - "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel" (NIV)

**Romans 12:2** - "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal (renewing) of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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