

Do You Have Beautiful Feet?

Romans 10:10-15

Intro

How many of us have thought of feet as being beautiful? Often we think of them as stinky, callus and the worse athletes' feet.

They aren't something we commonly regard as particular points of beauty, but they can be turned into something more beautiful—when used for the right purposes!

In Romans 10:15 we read: "*How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!*" Why does the bringing of Good News cause our feet to be transformed into beauty?

In centuries past before the invention of paper, of the printing press and the wire cable, there were messengers who ran on foot with important news. These envoys delivered the news in person. In biblical times people relied on these heralds who would bring news or a message from important dignitaries. They were often personal messengers who worked for kings, army leaders and officials of important positions.

For instance, in Job it was a messenger that brought word to Job that his family was killed. So, can you imagine what people would be thinking when word got out a messenger was bringing word to them? Their hearts would pound not knowing if the news was going to be bad or good.

When the news was good of course the messenger was the most popular person around. People would either love you or hate you! So people would say the messenger's feet were beautiful. Now the word beautiful does not mean in appearance—thank goodness. It means "in time" or "timely". It was as if the people were saying, "just when I needed to hear something good."

Did you ever think why the sinful woman and Mary, Lazarus's sister, anointed Jesus' feet? Could it also have been that they were so honoured to have Jesus come to them with the Good News.

The Bible says, "*How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!*" You don't need a Ph.D. in communication to understand how important a messenger is. The messenger is a crucial link in the communication process. The most inspiring story, the best news in the world won't do anyone any good if no one delivers it. Someone needs to deliver it.

When the prime minister wants to communicate an important message to the leader of another country, he sends an ambassador.

When God wanted to say that he loved the whole world, he sent his Son.

When God wanted the disciples to know that Jesus came out of that tomb, he sent two women. Now when God wants your friend or your neighbor to know about Jesus, who will he send?

First of all, you probably understand your friends or neighbours and especially your unsaved family members better than anyone else. Because you interact with them on a regular basis, you know their lives.

If you are praying for someone to be saved in your circle of friends or family then you are often the answer to your prayer. God is sending you to go and be His messenger of the Good News.

Romans 10 Context

Verse 1, *“Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.”*

Paul starts this chapter with a great desire and prayer for the salvation of his people. This was the great ache of his heart.

I'm speaking to Christians – do you have a burden in your heart, and seeking God in prayer for your friends, family, a spouse, or children who are outside the Kingdom of God?

Paul acknowledges in verse 2 that there's a problem, *“For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge.”* He was burdened for Israel; he was so profoundly burdened for them that back in Romans 9:2-3 he says, *“I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers.”*

This was so all-consuming, this burden, this prayer, that Paul in his great sorrow, and great love would almost have wished his own damnation if it could somehow mean the salvation of his people. His heart was occupied with this prayer incessantly, praying for the salvation of his people.

The problem was that while they had a zeal for God, while they had some motivation toward God, it was not according to knowledge. And no matter how he prayed, that prayer would never be answered until they **understood** what they needed to **understand**. And he says, “Here's the problem with their knowledge, or lack thereof,” verse 2, *“they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge.”* And what is it they don't know or understand?

Verses 3-4 tell us what they did not know, *“Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.”*

They thought that they could meet God's standard on their own terms, establishing their own righteousness by works and ceremony and ritual. They didn't know they were as sinful as they were. They didn't understand who Jesus was. They didn't understand why He came to be the substitute that took their place of death and the anger of God. They didn't understand that through Christ comes righteousness (being made right before a perfect holy God) to the one who believes in Christ.

The actress Sophia Loren was quoted in USA Today as saying that although she was not a practicing Christian, she said, *“I should go to heaven; otherwise it's not nice. I haven't done anything wrong. My conscience is very clean. My soul is as white as those orchids over there, and I should go straight, straight to heaven.”* She thinks she's been good enough, and so she should get to go to heaven. A lot of people think the same way.

But people don't understand, *“That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”* (Romans 10:9).

In the New Testament times it was outright dangerous to confess openly in public that Jesus is Lord. As a matter of fact it could cost one's own life. Once a year everyone in the Roman Empire had to appear before magistrates to burn a pinch of incense to the godhead of Caesar and

to say: “*Caesar is Lord.*” According to Roman law only Caesar was Lord and to call some else Lord was considered treasonous.

Also to the religious Jews only God, Yahweh, was Lord and to call Jesus Lord was blasphemous.

It all comes down to whether you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead then you will be saved.

So the Apostle Paul has a challenge. His burden is that his people would be saved. That’s His prayer. That’s his heart’s desire. But he can talk to God about that all the time and that prayer will not be answered until they have the proper knowledge. How is it going to happen?

And that’s when we come to verses 14 and 15 why he says this, “*How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”?*”

They can’t call until they believe. And how are they going to believe in Him whom they have not heard? And that is to say, until they have heard the truth about Christ, they can’t believe. And how will they hear without someone preaching to them? And how shall they preach unless they’re sent?

You can pray and pray and pray for the salvation of the lost, but nobody is ever saved unless they confess Jesus as Lord, having believed that He is and believe in their heart that God has raised Him from the dead. You can’t be saved unless you believe that in your heart. You can’t believe it until you hear it. You can’t hear it till somebody tells it to you. And nobody will tell it to you till they’re sent to you.

So, as we pray and some of us have been praying for a long time for people to come to Christ, we have to understand that we are also the means by which God answers that prayer. That’s why we’re told to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every person.

And then in verse 15 Paul borrows from the beautiful language of Isaiah 52:7, just as it is written, “*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation...*” It’s true. Those whom God sends to bring the message that is heard and believed, they have beautiful feet. That’s sort of a Hebrew way of saying how wonderful is their arrival. Very timely, just when I needed to hear something good.

Conclusion

There are people all around us in desperate need of some good news. They are going through a trying time. They don’t need to hear “suck it up” or “hang in there” or “our church has great music”, they need to hear Jesus loves and cares for you.

Did you know that most people come to Christ during turning points or transitions in their lives? Either a move, a death in the family, a divorce, and birth of a child. When things are going really great for an unbeliever it’s harder for them to be open to their need. But boy when the rug is pulled out from under them they become open.

Someone going through a tough time in need of some good news.

God wants to work through you and me to let our friends and neighbors know. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:20 that, “*We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us...*”

“*How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!*” It’s true. Those whom God sends to bring the message that is heard and believed, they have beautiful feet. How wonderful their coming and their arrival. Beautiful timing!

Illustration

There was a peculiar fisherman from Minnesota who was very well prepared. He knew how to fish. He had everything you need to be a good fisherman. He had poles, nets, bait, and even a really nice boat, but this fisherman had a problem. You see, for all his preparation he never caught anything. Not one fish. Not one, not ever. And you know why he never caught a fish? What do you think? The answer is easy: He never went fishing. He had all the knowledge and all the equipment, but he never got into the boat, he never left the dock!

We are called to be “fishers of men...”

We are to witness with our actions, with our lives, with our mouth—with love!

We have to go to people that are in need.

We, as believers, already have beautiful feet! Let’s go as messengers of the Good News.