

Beautiful Feet

Romans 10:13-21

7/ 31/ 05

Intro

After telling us about the wonderful blessings that are ours in Christ Jesus, Paul then began to share the sadness that he has in his heart because of his own people, his kinsman, the Jews.

They had rejected God's offer of grace, and Paul was brokenhearted, even to the point of saying that if it were possible, he would even give up his own salvation if it meant that they would be saved.

In this section, Paul is writing about the importance of sharing our faith with others. He has a burden in his heart for the lost and it is clear that we should as well.

He writes the famous phrase, "**How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad news!**"

These are insights into the importance of sharing our faith with those who are lost.

I. Salvation is Offered to All

A. Whoever calls is saved

- Paul wrote in verse 12 that there is no distinction between Jew and Greek – referring to God's offer of salvation.
- The same Lord is Lord of all; without distinction. But in order to be saved, we must call upon Him. In other words, God is the One who made a way for salvation, but we must have

a part, we must do something, we must receive salvation by calling on the Lord.

Illus – Israel was in Egypt and God had charged Pharaoh to let Israel free, but He refused and so the various plagues were sent to convince Pharaoh of His power.

The last plague was the death of every firstborn male. This could only be avoided by taking the lamb of a lamb and placing it on the doorposts of the house, thus the condemnation of death would "Passover" every house that had applied the blood.

- In the same way, we have a part in salvation, we must apply the blood of Jesus Christ to our hearts – we must call upon the name of the Lord.
- It's important to understand that He is One who made a way, he is the One who reached out to us, we must respond.

Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me."

I John 4:19, "We love Him because He first loved us."

- Each person must call for himself – God has no grandchildren.

B. But first they must believe

- Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved, but how can anyone call unless they first believe?

- But what they believe is vitally important.

Illus – There was once a famous evangelist named Gypsy Smith. He was born a gypsy in England and came to Christ as a boy. He would tell audiences the stories of how sad it was being a gypsy and could captivate the audience with his heart-wrenching stories. He would then give an invitation and people would come in great numbers.

Dr. Ironside happened to attend one meeting and later said, “I wondered what they had come forward for. Did they want to be gypsies or what?” They had really been given nothing in which to believe.

John 20:31, “but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

Romans 10:9-10, “if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;”

- Notice that it isn’t just confessing, but also believing with the heart that brings salvation.

Illus – My partner in the restaurant tried to force someone to confess Jesus as Savior. It doesn’t work that way.

C. But first they must hear

- Paul then asks how they can believe if they do not hear?
- This is a question really aimed at each of us. Paul has such a great burden for his own kinsman, and we should have a great burden for our friends as well.

- He also says there is a wonderful result in sharing your faith – beautiful feet.

II. You Too Can Have Beautiful Feet

A. How can they hear unless someone tells them?

- Everyone can be a preacher in this sense that all of us can share the good news with those we know.
- And Paul says that those who bring good news have “beautiful feet!”
- The key is that the gospel is truly good news, rather than bad news.

Illus – It’s common in Africa and many places in the world to try and bring people to faith by scaring them with hell. That sounds like bad news.

- We have been given the ministry of reconciling people with God.

II Corinthians 5:18-20, “Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

B. But first we must be sent

- Paul then asks, “How shall they preach unless they are sent?” That’s the reason he uses the picture of beautiful feet – they go and bring the good news with them.
- In truth, all of us are being sent.

Illus – I remember hearing about a chapel service at the bible college when this was being discussed and someone said that they were waiting to be sent. The speaker then yelled into the microphone, “Go!!” “There,” he said, “now you’ve heard what you needed to hear!”

Matthew 28:18-20, And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 9:36-38, Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”

- Most people come to the Lord through a friend. It’s common, though for Christians to stop having close friends that are not believers, yet that is the most powerful way people are saved.

III. Faith Comes by Hearing

A. And hearing by the Word of Christ

- This is a very important verse that gives insight into how faith comes into our hearts.
- Faith comes by hearing God’s Word.
- The Words of Christ are not just words, but powerful words, wonderful words of life.

Hebrews 4:12, “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

B. But not everyone who hears believes

- God is preparing us to understand that not everyone who hears will believe.
- Certainly we know this to be true because we know many people who have rejected faith just as Israel also did.
- But each person has the opportunity to accept or reject Christ by their own free choice. Each person is help accountable for this decision.

John 3:18-19, He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.”

John 3:20-21, “For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

C. By our light others may see

- God wants our lives also to be a light that shows the way to faith.

Matthew 5:14-16, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

- God also uses our lives to make Israel jealous so that she will come to faith.

Deuteronomy 32:21, They have made Me jealous with what is not God; they have provoked Me to anger with their idols. So I will make them jealous with those who are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation,”

- May our lives demonstrate the refreshing that comes by trusting in God with all our lives.

Conclusion

May we be encouraged by these words to share Christ with those who are lost. This is the best news the world has ever known since Adam.