

“Feet That Bring It”

Scripture: Romans 10:1-15

Graphic: none

Key Verses: 15 And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Theme: Salvation is available to everyone who believes. However, if no one brings the message of salvation to others, then it won't matter. In order to release people from bondage, we must go where we have been led by the Holy Spirit to go and tell people about Jesus. Move your feet!

1) Introduction

- a) *Wake up, wake up! Pull on your boots, Zion! Dress up in your Sunday best, Jerusalem, holy city! Those who want no part of God have been culled out. They won't be coming along. Brush off the dust and get to your feet, captive Jerusalem! Throw off your chains, captive daughter of Zion!*
- b) *God says, "You were sold for nothing. You're being bought back for nothing." Again, the Master, God, says, "Early on, my people went to Egypt and lived, strangers in the land. At the other end, Assyria oppressed them. And now, what have I here?" God's Decree. "My people are hauled off again for no reason at all. Tyrants on the warpath, whooping it up, and day after day, incessantly, my reputation blackened. Now it's time that my people know who I am, what I'm made of—yes, that I have something to say. Here I am!"*
- c) *How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger bringing good news, Breaking the news that all's well, proclaiming good times, announcing salvation, telling Zion, "Your God reigns!"*
- d) *Voices! Listen! Your scouts are shouting, thunderclap shouts, shouting in joyful unison. They see with their own eyes God coming back to Zion.*
- e) *Break into song! Boom it out, ruins of Jerusalem: "God has comforted his people! He's redeemed Jerusalem!" God has rolled up his sleeves. All the nations can see his holy, muscled arm. Everyone, from one end of the earth to the other, sees him at work, doing his salvation work.*
- f) *Out of here! Out of here! Leave this place! Don't look back. Don't contaminate yourselves with plunder. Just leave, but leave clean. Purify yourselves in the process of worship, carrying the holy vessels of God.*

- g) *But you don't have to be in a hurry. You're not running from anybody! God is leading you out of here, and the God of Israel is also your rear guard.*
- h) *“Just watch my servant blossom! Exalted, tall, head and shoulders above the crowd! But he didn't begin that way. At first everyone was appalled. He didn't even look human—a ruined face, disfigured past recognition. Nations all over the world will be in awe, taken aback, kings shocked into silence when they see him. For what was unheard of they'll see with their own eyes, what was unthinkable they'll have right before them.”*
- i) *Who believes what we've heard and seen? Who would have thought God's saving power would look like this?*
- j) That's Isaiah 52 and the first verse of 53. God's people were kicked out of Jerusalem...by foreigners who took the city by military force. They were living in exile in a foreign land. But now, the prophet Isaiah is telling the people of Israel in chapter 52 that God will liberate them from exile...He was sending them back to Jerusalem.
- k) And there would be scouts that would go ahead of the Israelites back to Jerusalem...and when they saw that God had cleared the way, they came back to the people in exile, shouting the Good News: Salvation is here...God Reigns! You can come home! Come home!
- l) Isaiah described the scouts like this, *“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger bringing good news, Breaking the news that all's well, proclaiming good times, announcing salvation, telling Zion, "Your God reigns!”*
- m) The people had hope because of the message brought by the messengers!
- n) We have a world filled with hopeless people...people who are lost and in exile...who have no sense of being at home. And God is calling us to do something about it. He's calling us to be the feet that bring the good news...
- o) Turn with me to Romans chapter 10...
- p) Let's pray...

2) Scripture

a) Read verse 1-4

- i) Who is Paul talking about here? If you look back a few verses, we find out that Paul is talking about the people of Israel...the Jewish people...his OWN people.
- ii) Paul's heart's desire and prayer to God for THEM is that they may be saved. In chapter 9, we read that Paul had great sorrow and unceasing anguish because his OWN people had been given BY GOD everything they needed for full salvation through Jesus Christ and yet some weren't saved!
- iii) If there are not people in your life right now for whom you have a heart's desire and prayer to God to be saved, then you need to get some unsaved friends and start praying for them and having a broken heart for them.
- iv) There's a world filled with hopeless people out there, most likely some in your own family...and everyone is savable, whether we think so or not. And the starting point for God to send you into their lives is to pray to God for their salvation...to ask God to break your heart for them.
- v) And if you're sitting here today, and you don't know if you are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, then sit tight because Paul's going to lay that out as clearly as it can be...
- vi) Paul is not talking, really, to the people in some remote corner of the world who haven't heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul is talking to and about the religious people who have spent a lifetime coming to church and acting religious, but who have never truly asked Jesus to be their Savior.
- vii) He says in verse 2, that he knows they have zeal for God, but it's ramming in the wrong direction. They are trying to DO stuff in order to be righteous...
- viii) But God sent Jesus to put an end to all that.
- ix) Look at verse 4...For Christ is the end of the law.
- x) Have you ever seen a hang glider take off? You know, you have this large set of nylon wings on your back and you have a long straight path to run on, straight toward a cliff...and so you start running...and running...and running...and finally, you get to the point of no return and you leap into the air and, hopefully, start gliding on the wind.

- xi) The people of Israel were running and running trying to make their own wind in order for the wings to work...the Law was the runway on which they were running...
- xii) Jesus is the end to all that running...he's the end of the runway and the beginning of the flight. Because of Jesus, we don't have to run on the requirements of the Law anymore...
- xiii) We still have some things to do, like steer and pray, and respond to the wind beneath our wings...but it's up to Jesus now...not us.
- xiv) Christ is the exclamation point in the letter of the Law...
- xv) So many people in this world are trying to be good people...trying to do the right thing for the sake of running on the runway. I'm not saying we shouldn't be nice people, but as disciples of Jesus, we are called share the good news that we can stop running because of faith in Christ. We can't DO anything on our own to buy or earn our way into eternal life with Christ.
- xvi) Here's what Paul says about it in more detail...

b) Read verses 5-8

- i) Basically, those who are trying to gain a right relationship with God by trying to follow the requirements of the law, OR by doing the things that Christ did to get it, WILL NOT FIND IT.
- ii) Only those who place their faith in what Jesus DID will find the salvation that Paul is so longing for the people to find.
- iii) You don't have to go chasing after faith by trying to do what Jesus did.
- iv) Faith is close, it says in verse 8. It's as close as a breath on your lips...as close as the beating of your heart.
- v) Paul is desperately trying to tell us that God wants us to have a relationship with Him so much that He is making a way. No barriers...
- vi) It's a way that is as easy as confessing and believing...look at verse 9...

c) Read verses 9-13

- i) Salvation by faith is as easy as confessing the truth that you believe about Jesus. Confessing with your mouth and believing in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead.
- ii) This puts the resurrection of Jesus at the heart of the Good News that the messengers bring to the world!
- iii) People need to know that they are savable, can be saved, and will be when they stop chasing after wealth and happiness and accept the grace that gives us through Jesus.
- iv) People need to know that being saved by faith is not some 12-step program that brings people in line with some set of rules that the church keeps so we can be holier than the world around us.
- v) People need to know that the presence of sin in our lives is not something that prevents us from coming to Christ, even though it's the thing that makes us feel the most unworthy to worship and pray.
- vi) People need to know that whatever sin we have in our lives, the Holy Spirit will guide us and lead us out of it.
- vii) People need to know that when Jesus was raised from the dead, God defeated death and promised to give that to us too.
- viii) People need to know that those who believe are just like everyone else, except they will ultimately not be put to shame on Judgment Day.
- ix) People need to know that it doesn't matter where you've been, what you've done, or how you've done it, the salvation offered to us in Jesus Christ is free and can't be earned.
- x) People need to know that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord WILL BE SAVED! Amen?
- xi) And YOU are the messengers that bring the Good News because YOU are the ones who have gone to God by faith and are going out into the world to tell people the Good News! That salvation is near! That God wants them to come home!
- xii) But how? Here's where it gets really good...

d) Read verses 14-15

- i) What would have happened to the people of Israel in exile if the scouts that went to Jerusalem and saw that God was returning, stayed, picked the biggest houses, went into the uncrowded temple and worshipped, and made the city their own?
- ii) First of all, God would probably have smoked them right there for their disobedience ...
- iii) But more importantly, the rest of the people would not know...they would still be out there in exile...lost and disenfranchised.
- iv) The main goal of a scout is not finding the information...the main goal of the scout is to bring the message of the information back to the people who sent the scout.
- v) Because the scouts came back and TOLD the people, the people heard and were called back to God.
- vi) Paul asks a series of logical questions to make this point:
 - (1) How can people “call on the name of the Lord” if they don’t believe?
 - (a) Paul just got done saying that “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
 - (b) How can they do that if they don’t believe the message of salvation?
 - (2) Secondly, how can they believe the message about Jesus if they haven’t heard anything about him?
 - (3) Thirdly, how can anyone hear about Jesus unless there are people to proclaim him?
 - (a) Now, talking ABOUT Jesus and proclaiming Him are two completely different things. Lots of people know ABOUT Jesus, but Paul is not talking about casual conversation. He’s talking about preaching with authority...with conviction...with a formality and gravity that comes from having urgent information that other people need to know.
 - (b) And this isn’t just for professional preachers...this is for all of us. Take the authority that Christ gives you and preach the gospel to

the lost and hurting people. How will they EVER HEAR if we don't proclaim Jesus' love to them?

(4) Finally, Paul says, how will they ever proclaim him unless they are sent?

(a) If all we do is talk about reaching the lost for Jesus and never do it, then they will never hear. If all we do is send money to other people who are doing the work of evangelism, then we are not really doing evangelism. If we are relying on the people in the church who are far better at talking with people than I am, then I'm not talking at all.

(b) I've told you before that I'm a painful introvert...when I feel the prompting of the Holy Spirit to make an invitation to church or share something about God's love with someone else...I want to run and hide. I start making deals with God. I usually miss my first chance...

(c) OK God, if they come back again, then I'll say something...

(d) Sometimes takes two or three times...I wonder if the person that God wants to reach knows why they keep walking into the room.

(e) This happened to me this week. I was in my office and Brian who cleans the church with his wife Linda came into the office. God clearly said, "Invite him to church." I said NO. God gave me that look...reminded me of my Mom. I didn't say anything but small talk. I missed my opportunity. Then I said, God, if he comes back, then I'll do it. When he came back, he was vacuuming... "See God, I can't talk over the vacuum, I guess I can't invite him." Only if he turns off the vacuum. Wouldn't you know it, ONE SECOND later he shuts off the vacuum and looks at me. He was probably wondering why he stopped and was looking at me.

(f) I said, Brian, has anyone in this church ever invited you to come worship with us. He said, "No. Besides, our schedule is pretty late nights and we don't get up early." I said, "Brian, I just wanted you to know that you and Linda and your grandkids would be welcome here anytime."

- (g) How can they be saved if they don't believe...how can they believe if they haven't heard...how can they hear if we don't proclaim it with authority...how can we tell them if we are willing to go?
- (h) In order for people to come into a saving relationship with Christ, we must be sent, go, and obey...even if we aren't good at it.
- (i) How beautiful are the feet of those that bring good news?

3) Application

- a) Well, let's find out. I want you to do something a little crazy this morning. We're outside, it's relaxing... Take your shoes off. (Now, if you really don't want to, then take your neighbor's shoes off and just look at their feet).
- b) Feet are not really that attractive, are they?...not mine at least. Feet are kind of gross. Feet that are merely used for getting us, selfishly, from one place to another are really not that attractive.
- c) But! Take those same feet on a scouting mission and use them to share the Good News about Jesus, says God, and they are the most beautiful feet in the entire universe.
- d) And notice that beautiful are the feet that BRING good news. Isaiah didn't say, beautiful are the feet that TAKE good news. We aren't going anywhere where the Holy Spirit has not already prepared the hearts of the people we will meet, if we go with the Good News of Jesus Christ in our own heart. The world is hungry for the gospel...the harvest is plenty...the workers are few.
- e) Let me talk for a minute to the mature people here today. Later in his life, when the Apostle Paul was in prison, his feet were put in shackles and he couldn't go on any more missionary journeys. That didn't stop him from proclaiming the good news about Jesus in other ways.
- f) Many of us will never have the opportunity to travel the world with our feet to tell people about Jesus. But that shouldn't stop us... Many here might think they are too old for evangelism (which is what bringing the good news means in the Greek). Using your feet to bring the Good News can be as simple as a phone call, a prayer, and sharing something about Jesus' love.

g) You're never too old to serve Jesus as a messenger...

4) Conclusion

a) Take a moment now and look at your feet...

b) Envision them taking you to one person this week to tell them about Jesus...

c) Envision them without any restraints or shackles on them...you are free to share.

d) Envision Jesus washing your feet when they get dirty...bandaging them when they get hurt...those are all things that happen sometimes when we are bringing the good news to the people.

e) Know that God think your feet are beautiful and wants to use them to tell other people about His Son Jesus, who died for you...who rose again...and who offers salvation to all who believe. Yours are the feet that bring it!

f) That brings me back to those here today who may not yet know Christ as your personal Savior. This morning, the Good News about Jesus Christ has been brought to you by the feet of the people here. Every single person here who knows Jesus as their Savior wants you to know Him too.

g) Paul reminds us that if we believe in our heart and confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord, that everyone who does that will be saved.

h) Every time a preacher prays that prayer, I pray it to. I get saved all the time.

i) Maybe this morning is the morning you give your life to Jesus Christ. I know it's my morning again. I'm going to ask everyone here to pray with me. If you want the Good News to be yours this morning, then pray with me. If you are a believer in Christ, then pray this in solidarity with others this morning. In the power of the Holy Spirit, repeat after me...

j) Lord Jesus...I believe in my heart...and confess with my mouth...that you are the Son of God...that you died for my sins...and rose again for me to have eternal life....forgive me for my sin...wash me clean...and prepare my feet and hands for ministry...this is your free gift to me...and I accept your grace and mercy...thank you, Lord. Amen...

k) Let's pray...