**How Beautiful are the Feet**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 10:14-21**

**Wednesday Evening**

**October 30, 2024**

**Romans 10:14-21**

14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. 18 But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world."

19 But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: "I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation." 20 But Isaiah is very bold and says: "I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me." 21 But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people."

**14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?**

Saints, if God’s salvation is for anyone who calls, how can people call on God to save them if they have not been moved to believe in him?

How can they believe if they have never heard about him?

Saints, there can be no call, no belief, if these people have not heard about God (“heard” means a hearing that understands the significance of the words and realizes that a response is required),

and it’s been given the offer of salvation. And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

Saints, there can be no call, no belief, no hearing, unless there are those sent to share the Good News.

**15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"**

Saints, all believers are sent to announce this Good News. The process of salvation begins with the one who tells another the Good News.

Like Paul and the early Christians, who spread the message of Christ despite persecution and even death, we should be eager to share this Good News of salvation to all who will listen.

In the verse quoted from Isaiah 52:7, the herald is bearing good news to Judah about the end of their exile in Babylon and their return to their own land.

**Isaiah 52:7**

How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Saints, his feet were beautiful to them, for his good news was so welcome.

The message was what he brought, but it was those worn and dusty feet that brought him.

Those feet were beautiful because they represented the messenger’s willingness to be sent with good news.

Only now the message was not just for Israel, but for the whole world.

**2 Timothy 4:2-5**

2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

**16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?"**

Saints, many Jews did not welcome the gospel of Jesus Christ—they heard it but refused to believe and submit to it.

The failure of Jews to respond to God’s warnings of impending judgment was true in Isaiah’s day, “Lord, who has believed our message?” It was true while Jesus preached, and it was true in Paul’s day.

**John 12:37-41**

37 But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, 38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?"

39 Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: 40 "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them." 41 These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.

Saints, we can expect the same today. Bringing people good news does not guarantee a welcome.

We are not held responsible for how others respond, but we are expected to carry the Good News.

**17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

Saints, this statement expresses the main theme of this section. People need to hear the Good News of salvation in Christ in order to believe it.

**1 Thessalonians 2:13**

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

**Colossians 3:16**

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

**Hebrews 4:1-4**

1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. 2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

3 For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter My rest," although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Saints, faith does not respond in a vacuum or respond blindly. Faith is believing what one has been told about God’s offer of salvation and trusting the one who has been spoken about.

**18 But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world."**

Saints, some might argue that the Jews weren’t given enough chances to hear or that somehow the message should have been, made clearer for them. Perhaps Isaiah’s complaint (“Who has believed?” was the fault of the messenger.

**Isaiah 53:1**

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

Saints, but Paul emphatically responds that of course they heard. The message had been preached far and wide, first to the Jews and then to the Gentiles.

Then Paul quotes from

**Psalm 19:4**

Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun.

Saints, when Luke ended the book of Acts with Paul in Rome, this was probably considered a culmination of the great commission to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

**Acts 1:8**

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Saints, at this time in history, the Good News had been preached to Jews and Gentiles for about twenty years, and it had spread throughout the Mediterranean areas where Jews lived.

There may have been some Jews who truly had not yet heard, but to use that as an excuse for the large number of Jews who had rejected the gospel did not sit well with Paul!

**Romans 1:18-20**

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse…

Saints, as the loopholes close for the Jews, they close for everyone else, too.

If the Jews are not excused for their unbelief, how can the rest of us think there might be some excuse for us?

In the end, some may wish they had heard more, but God will declare that what they heard was enough.

In the meantime, those of us who have heard have little excuse for our apathy in passing on the Good News!

**19 But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: "I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation."**

Saints, someone might then argue, “Okay, so the Jews heard, but perhaps they didn’t really understand that God’s message was salvation not by the law, but by faith, and that it was for the Gentiles too.”

Paul didn’t like that excuse either. The Jews’ knowledge of their own Scriptures should have led them to believe in Christ.

Saints, Paul quotes again from their Scriptures to answer the argument. First, from

**Deuteronomy 32:21-22**

21 They have provoked Me to jealousy by what is not God; They have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols. But I will provoke them to jealousy by those who are not a nation; I will move them to anger by a foolish nation.

22 For a fire is kindled by my anger, And shall burn to the lowest hell; It shall consume the earth with her increase, And set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

Saints, the Gentiles were not a single nation; they consisted of everyone who was not part of the Jewish nation.

The Jews would be envious that God would offer salvation to the world at large and not just to his chosen people.

They would be angry that the pagan peoples whom they considered to have no understanding would be accepted by God.

In all of this, God’s purpose would not be to reject his people, but to cause them to return to him.

**20 But Isaiah is very bold and says: "I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me."**

Saints, the second quote is from Isaiah:

**Isaiah 65:1**

"I was sought by those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me. I said, 'Here I am, here I am,' To a nation that was not called by My name.

Saints, the people who were not looking for God were the Gentiles.

Although they had previously ignored God as simply the God of Israel and so had never sought him out, the Gentiles would recognize God as the one true God, and God would reveal himself to them.

**21 But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people."**

Saints, finally, from Isaiah:

**Isaiah 65:2**

I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who walk in a way that is not good, According to their own thoughts…

Saints, Paul explains that God had been gracious to his people, patiently holding out his arms to them and calling them, only to have them disobey and argue with him.

God’s invitation was spurned and his gifts were rejected.

The disobedience of Israel was judged by God’s welcome to the Gentiles (even though that was in his plan all along).

But he will still accept his chosen people if they will only return to him.

He remains faithful to his promises to his people, even though they have been unfaithful to him. God still holds out his arms.

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.”**