

“How Beautiful Upon the Mountains”

Summary

In this powerful message, we're reminded of the transformative power of the Gospel and our role as bearers of good news. The central theme revolves around Isaiah 52:7, 'How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news.' We explore the profound meaning behind this verse, understanding that our feet - symbolizing our actions and movements - are made beautiful when we carry the message of Christ's peace and salvation. Kevin Johnson draws fascinating parallels between the ancient use of 'euangelion' (good news) in political and military contexts, and how early Christians repurposed this term to proclaim Jesus as the true King. This challenges us to consider: Are we actively spreading the good news of God's reign in our daily lives? How can we be the 'beautiful feet' that bring hope and peace to a world in chaos?

Main Points – How Beautiful Upon the Mountains

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the biblical concept of "beautiful feet" that bring good news, as mentioned in Isaiah 52:7. Kevin emphasizes that all believers are called to be messengers of the gospel, which is not just about personal salvation but about proclaiming God's reign and bringing His peace to a troubled world. The sermon ties together themes of Jesus' ministry, the early church's proclamation, and the believer's role in continuing to spread the good news in today's context.

Key Points:

- The term "gospel" (euangelion) was originally a political and military term used to announce significant events
- Jesus redefined this concept by proclaiming the arrival of God's kingdom
- Beautiful feet are those washed by the Savior and prepared to bring the message of peace
- Believers are called to be the "aroma of Christ" in the world
- The kingdom of God is not just future but present, increasing since Jesus' time
- All believers are sent as peacemakers and representatives of God's kingdom

Scripture Reference:

- Isaiah 52:7 - "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news..."
- Romans 10:14-15 - Paul's application of Isaiah's prophecy to the spreading of the gospel
- Isaiah 9:6-7 - Prophecy about the government being on Jesus' shoulders

Small Group Study Guide – How Beautiful Upon the Mountains

Opening Prayer:

Begin by thanking God for His good news and asking for guidance in discussing and applying the sermon's message.

Key Takeaways:

1. The gospel (euangelion) is not just good news, but a proclamation of Jesus as the true King.
2. Beautiful feet in Scripture are those washed by Jesus and sent to spread His message.
3. We are all called to be messengers of God's peace and good news.
4. The Kingdom of God is here now and continually increasing.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?
2. Kevin mentioned that the term "gospel" (euangelion) was originally a political and military term. How does this change or enhance your understanding of the gospel message?
3. Reflect on John 13, where Jesus washes the disciples' feet. What does this act teach us about leadership and service in God's Kingdom?
4. The sermon emphasized that all believers have "beautiful feet" to bring good news. How does this impact your view of your role in sharing the gospel?
5. How do you see the "increase of His government and peace" (Isaiah 9:7) happening in the world today? In your own life?
6. Kevin mentioned that hurt people hurt people. How can understanding people's stories help us in sharing the gospel effectively?
7. What does it mean to be a "peacemaker" in today's world? How can we practically live this out?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, intentionally listen to someone's story without judgment. Reflect on how this experience might open doors for sharing God's love.
2. Identify one area in your life where you can be a "peacemaker." Make a plan to take action in that area.

3. Spend time in prayer asking God to show you opportunities to share the "good news" in your daily interactions.

4. Reflect on how you can use your specific gifts and experiences to represent Christ in your sphere of influence.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for making us His messengers and ask for courage and wisdom to share His good news effectively.

Scripture for Further Study:

- Isaiah 52:7
- Romans 10:14-15
- Ephesians 6:15
- Matthew 5:9

Encourage group members to read these passages during the week for deeper reflection on the sermon's themes.

Discussion Questions – How Beautiful Upon the Mountains

How can we embody the concept of 'beautiful feet' in our daily lives, bringing good news and peace to those around us?

In what ways does the interpretation of 'euangelion' (good news) challenge our modern understanding of the gospel message?

How might viewing Jesus as both the messenger and the message of God's kingdom impact our approach to evangelism?

What does it mean for us to be the 'aroma of Christ' in today's world, and how can we spread this fragrance effectively?

How does the message's emphasis on Jesus' kingship and government challenge our perspective on the role of faith in society?

In what ways can we cultivate a servant's heart like Jesus demonstrated in washing his disciples' feet?

How might understanding our identity as 'sent ones' change the way we interact with others in our community?

What are some practical ways we can be 'peacemakers' in our families, workplaces, and broader society?

How does the concept of the kingdom of God being present now, not just in the future, affect our approach to daily life and ministry?

Scriptures – How Beautiful Upon the Mountains

Here are the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon, listed in standard notation:

1. Isaiah 52:7
2. Luke 2:10-14
3. Mark 1:14-15
4. John 12 (specific verses not mentioned, but referring to Jesus being anointed)
5. John 13 (specific verses not mentioned, but referring to Jesus washing disciples' feet)
6. Matthew 26 (mentioned but not elaborated on)
7. 2 Corinthians 2:14-16
8. Colossians 2:15
9. Ephesians 6:15
10. Romans 10:11-15
11. Isaiah 9:6-7
12. Matthew 5:9
13. John 20 (specific verses not mentioned, but referring to Jesus appearing to disciples after resurrection)

Devotional – How Beautiful Upon the Mountains

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide:

Day 1: The Good News of God's Reign

Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Devotional: Isaiah's prophecy paints a beautiful picture of messengers bringing good news. This good news is not just any announcement, but the proclamation that our God reigns. In a world full of chaos and uncertainty, we can find comfort in knowing that God is still on the throne. His reign brings peace, salvation, and hope. Today, reflect on areas in your life where you need to be reminded of God's sovereignty. How might your perspective change if you truly believed that God reigns over every situation you face? Consider how you can be a messenger of this good news to others around you, bringing hope and peace through your words and actions.

Day 2: Feet Prepared for Peace

Reading: Ephesians 6:10-15

Devotional: Paul instructs us to fit our feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. This imagery reminds us that as followers of Christ, we are called to be peacemakers and bearers of good news. Our feet have been washed and anointed by Jesus, preparing us to walk into a world of chaos and confusion with the message of peace. Today, consider how you can actively pursue peace in your relationships and surroundings. Are there conflicts you need to address or people you need to forgive? Ask God to help you stand firm in His peace and to guide your steps as you bring His peace to others.

Day 3: The Aroma of Christ

Reading: 2 Corinthians 2:14-16

Devotional: Paul describes believers as the aroma of Christ, spreading the fragrance of His knowledge everywhere. This powerful metaphor reminds us that our lives should reflect the beauty and attractiveness of Christ to those around us. Just as a pleasant aroma can draw people in, our lives should draw others to Christ. Reflect on how your life might be spreading the fragrance of Christ. Are there areas where you might be giving off a different scent? Ask God to help you live in such a way that others are drawn to the beauty of Christ through your words, actions, and attitudes.

Day 4: The Increase of His Government and Peace

Reading: Isaiah 9:6-7

Devotional: This familiar passage about the coming Messiah speaks of the endless increase of His government and peace. It's not just about a baby in a manger, but about the establishment of an eternal kingdom. As followers of Christ, we are part of this increasing kingdom. How can you participate in expanding Christ's reign of peace in your sphere of influence? Consider practical ways you can bring order, justice, and peace to your family,

workplace, or community. Ask God to show you how you can be an agent of His increasing government and peace today.

Day 5: Called to be Peacemakers

Reading: Matthew 5:9, John 20:19-22

Devotional: Jesus blesses peacemakers and calls them children of God. After His resurrection, His first words to His disciples were "Peace be with you," followed by sending them out as the Father had sent Him. As followers of Christ, we are called and empowered to be peacemakers in a fractured world. This doesn't mean avoiding conflict, but actively working to bring reconciliation and healing. Reflect on areas in your life or community where peace is needed. How can you step into those situations as a peacemaker? Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh, giving you the wisdom and courage to bring Christ's peace wherever you go.