

## **Beautiful Feet**

### *Our Mission*

Romans 10:11-15

January 5, 2020 am

HDBC

**I've resisted** the temptation this morning to begin the sermon by asking everyone to remove their shoes. I'm sure that would make some people nervous. Are we going to begin the new year with a foot-washing exercise? Nope! But, I do want you to think about your feet for just a moment.

They are made up of 7 tarsals, 5 metatarsals, 14 phalanges. 26 bones in all connected by ligaments. Also contain muscle and blood vessels, nerve endings, etc. All this covered by skin that is soft on the top and tough on the bottom.

**Your** feet are pretty incredible things. Think of all your feet do. Support entire body weight while assisting with balance. Used for walking, running, jumping, kicking. Also used for smashing coke cans, pushing gas pedal on your car, and mashing grapes. My granddad could pinch with his feet. Withstand incredible abuse, and at the same time be ticklish.

**The Bible has much to say about feet.** 97 references in NT alone.

**Divine Feet** - *And she had a sister called Mary, who was listening to the Lord's word, seated at His feet. (Luke 10:39)*

**Dusty** - *And as for those who do not receive you, when you depart from that city, shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them. (Luke 9:5)*

**Burying** - *Then Peter said to her, Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they shall carry you out as well. (Acts 5:9)*

**Murdering** - *And when they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him, and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. (Acts 7:58)*

**Crippled** - *And at Lystra there was sitting a certain man, without strength in his feet, lame from his mother's womb. (Acts 14:8)*

**Secured** - *And he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison, and fastened their hands and feet in the stocks. (Acts 16:24)*

**Swift** - *Their feet are swift to shed blood. (Rom. 3:15)*

**Victorious** - *And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. (Rom. 16:20)*

**Prepared** - *Having shod your feet with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace. (Eph. 6:15)*

**Angelic** - *And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. (Rev. 22:8)*

**Beautiful Feet** - Romans 10:11-15. – Read the Text

Those who are actively joining in God's mission to take the Gospel to the world are the ones whose feet are beautiful. **This is Our Mission**

### **1. The Possibility (11-13)**

Salvation is offered to everyone. Anyone is a candidate for salvation.

***Whoever, All, Whoever.***

No one will ever seek to be saved and be rejected or turned away. Paul makes it very clear that there is no distinction between Jews and Gentiles. They are all invited to be saved. One group does not have an inside track over the other group. No distinction between American and Asian or African.

**All are invited to be saved and can be saved.**

### **A. The Way to Salvation**

For people to be saved, they must know that it is available to them and how they can be saved. Paul tells us in these verses.

**Trust, believe, Call.** Call upon him by faith. Nobody saved any other way. **Hindus, Buddhists and New-Agers not moving toward Heaven.** Only one way there. Sounds exclusive. It is. No one saved apart from the Gospel.

## **B. The Results of Salvation (11)**

Just what we looked for. No one is ever disappointed with God. No one turned away. Everyone who trusts in Christ will be saved.

## **2. The Problem (14A)**

The good news of Salvation has not reached everyone. God has offered the gift of salvation to everyone, but there are some who have not heard it. Great questions in v 14.

***How shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?***

**Last Japanese** soldier to surrender after WW2 did so in 1974. Spent 29 years in jungle in the Philippines because he did not believe the war had ended. Long before that time many people had tried to persuade him of that truth, but in the early months and years he and others continue to hide and attempt to fight because they simply did not know the truth.

**Reality of peace** did them no good because they did not know it. Same is true of the good news. There are people who would respond to the call of Christ if someone would tell them.

**Oswald Smith** said, *"No one has a right to hear the gospel twice while there are some who have not heard it once."*

**Approximately** 17,000 distinct people groups on the planet. 7,000 are considered unreached. Most have never even heard the gospel. Many have never heard of Jesus. **There are almost 2 billion people with little or no access to the Gospel.**

## **3. The Plan (14B-15A)**

To be saved they must believe. To believe, they must hear. To hear, someone has to tell them. For someone to tell them they must be sent.

## A. Some Must Go

*And how shall they hear without a preacher?*

**Great need** is for preachers and missionaries. That is why I often pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send forth workers. Workers are needed in the fields of northeast Arkansas, the United States and the World. God is calling all of us to be involved in going to our friends and neighbors who are around us as well as to those ten thousand miles away.

**Risky? Yes! But what important venture isn't?**

*In the midst of a generation screaming for answers, Christians are stuttering. Howard Hendricks.*

## B. Others Must Send

*And how shall they preach unless they are sent?*

### 1) Support

While some go, others must stay behind and provide the support needed. Costs money, and missionaries on field should not have that concern. We in the states should do whatever it takes to keep them on the field. We do that through budget offerings and through special offerings. Will you consider giving in support of missions?

### 2) Encourage

Encourage them to go. Turn them loose. Let them know that it is a noble thing that they do. Create an atmosphere that encourages answering the missions call.

## 4. The Praise (15B)

All those who give themselves to the process of sharing the Gospel with those who need to hear have beautiful feet.

**John and Betty Stam have beautiful feet.**

**Met at Moody Bible institute. Both felt the call of God to missions in China. Went to China separately, but a year later, October 25, 1933 they were married. Year later they were blessed with a baby girl, Helen Priscilla.**

Three months later 2,000 communists mounted a surprise attack on city where the Stam's lived. All three were taken as prisoners. Captors demanded \$20,000 as ransom. John was allowed to send note to mission headquarters relaying the ransom demand. He closed the note with, *The Lord bless you and guide you, and as for us, may God be glorified whether by life or by death.*

On December 8, as the soldiers prepared to kill the baby, a farmer who had heard about their situation pleaded for the baby's life. His life for hers. They agreed and was killed on the spot.

Next day they couple were forced to leave the house, without the baby. Paraded down the street and a crowd gathered. A Chinese doctor made a last-minute plea for their lives but the communists sentenced him to die, as well. John then begged for mercy for the doctor, but to no avail.

They were ordered to their knees and in quick succession both were beheaded. Some daring Chinese Christians rescued the baby and managed to get her to her grandparents.

Charles Beaty. SBC Missionary diagnosed with lung cancer. Radiation and chemotherapy seemed to slow the progress of the cancer after it was diagnosed in 1998. But in November 2000 physicians found that the disease was advancing once more. Nothing more than they could do. He would be dead before summer.

When they received the news that the cancer was moving more quickly, he determined to return to North Africa for a final attempt to share Jesus. Charles died in Oct. 2, 2001. When he placed his body in the grave, he was sporting two very beautiful feet.

Hannah Carter answered the called to serve God for two years among the You people in Central Asia. Two years in a culture foreign to her own. Attempting to learn difficult language, all in hopes of leading one or two or more to come to a personal relationship with Christ. She has beautiful feet.

Jerry and Armentia Adams. Jerry and Tommie Heath. John and Claudia Brown. Everyone who had participated in a national or international team.

Think of all the short-term volunteers who have gone to Mexico, Jamaica, Brazil, Bulgaria, Ivory Coast, Spain, China, Nevada, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, New Jersey, etc. And those who have given that they might go.

**Any time** you are engaged in the process of helping people come to know Christ, your feet take on a new beauty. This is a God thing. He is the one who honors those who make disciples. But ultimately it is not about our praise, but His glory.

*Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exist because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever. **John Piper***

I want the feet of HDBC members to grow more beautiful in 2020. Would you consider going? Would you consider giving more? Would you commit to praying seriously for missions and evangelism?

You may hear this is a message the church, at-large. It is. But the church is made up of members. This message is for each one of us. What will you do with what you have heard?