

“Beautiful Feet?”—Isaiah 52:7

The text for this sermon, the theme of which is, “Beautiful Feet?”, is Isaiah 52:7 → *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”* This is the text.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus:

Do have beautiful feet? Maybe that’s really not a fair question since most people may not consider their feet to be “beautiful.” Despite the abundance of products and pedicures which promise to produce those beautiful feet they still may not look all that great. Some of us are more concerned about stability on our feet in light of pain and/or various types of surgery which we may have had to help them function better. Beautiful feet mean nothing if they don’t work right.

Our text describes beautiful feet from the perspective of the “message” which they deliver. *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who **brings good news**.* It is actually a picture a messenger who ran from the scene of a battle to bring news of the outcome to a waiting king and people. Naturally the news they desired was *good news* of some kind. In the context

of the prophet Isaiah's words it is *good news* of deliverance from the captivity of God's people in Babylon and restoration to the Promised Land. It is news of Yahweh's acting with His salvation in the lives of people!

The feet are "beautiful" because of the message which the messenger brings to the people. Our text talks about publishing or proclaiming *peace . . . good news of happiness and salvation*. You can immediately see why such feet are "beautiful." Much of the news published or proclaimed in our day is not so good. In fact, it is downright ugly, filled with stories of turmoil, war and unrest between individuals, groups and nations. Not only is much of it unhappy news but it can leave people feeling unhappy and even angry at the injustices placed before them. It actually describes people's need for salvation on a level which cannot happen without divine intervention because it reflects sin and the working of the devil in all his gruesomeness.

Such news many times leaves people despairing and feeling that all is hopeless when it is not. This is why the beautiful feet proclaiming the *good news* are so important. It's about hope through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The word "gospel" means "good news." It was proclaimed by the angel in Luke 2:10-11 on the day God came into our sinful world as the Babe of Bethlehem: *Behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord.*

The angels who joined him in praise proclaimed: *Glory to God in the highest, and **on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!*** (cf. Luke 2:14)

It's not hopeless because *your God reigns* and He is in control!

However, even the world's idea of this "peace on earth good will toward men" can be misguided, thinking that it is something we can make happen by our choices, behaviors and character. It is actually idolatrous because it proclaims that we instead of God reign by our own efforts to combat sin, only to witness sin breed more sin on different levels. In order for our choices, behaviors and character to impact others they must flow from the peace which comes as a result of God's salvation in Jesus Christ.

These words of our text are the prelude to the prophecy about Christ's suffering and death for the forgiveness of your sins, recorded in Isaiah 53:4-6

→ *Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows . . . He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement **that brought us peace**, and with His wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.* The good news is that your sins have been forgiven because of the Person & Work of Jesus Christ!

This peace is bound up in your salvation so that you can be one of those people described by the angels as one ***with whom God is pleased***. It is only

by faith in Jesus that you can receive this message as good news of great joy. You don't need to justify your sin like so much of the news proclaimed through media strives to do when analyzing the sinful behavior of others. There is no excuse for your sin. You are guilty. The good news proclaimed is that *He was pierced on the cross for **your** transgressions; He was crushed for **your** iniquities; upon Him was the punishment for your sins **that brought you peace**, and . . . the LORD has laid on Him **your** iniquity!* God is pleased with you when you repent of your sins and trust completely in this atoning work of Jesus for you. Romans 5:1-2 puts it this way: *Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

Through faith in Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem, your feet become “beautiful!” Where have they taken you this Christmas? Your “beautiful feet” may engage and interact with family members with the opportunity to bring an atmosphere of good news to the table. They are “beautiful” as you exchange gifts with others bringing the good news of God’s free gift of forgiveness and love through faith in Christ Jesus.

We sang a beloved Christmas song—“Go Tell It on the Mountain.” The backdrop for the title of this song is Isaiah 40:9-11 → *Go on up to a high*

*mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and His arm rules for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him.*

While such a song can pose a real challenge for us in our area to sing when our closest thing to a mountain is a bridge over an interstate highway, we can still sing it with faith because of the message it proclaims. *"Behold your God!"*—Christ is born! *"Your God reigns."*—Christ is born! *Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might* to bring about salvation!—Christ is born!

As you sing about Jesus' birth, as you celebrate His birth with gift-giving, as you greet others with cards and proclamations, as you bring a peace and joy into your relationships, you are the beautiful feet upon the mountains proclaiming the good news of salvation! Amen.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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