

Series Title: Truth Unashamed, Part 4

Sermon Title: Week 5: Beautiful Feet!

Date: 02-03-19

† Free your mind!

- **Recurring story ‘trope’- person put in a radically new reality, trouble comprehending what is now true.**
- **MATRIX: Neo trying to come to comprehend the new reality... Jump scene on towers... free your mind. There is an entire new system you are living in, you have to see through eyes of your new reality, not old.**
- **FOR US... there are things about the biblical reality of the believer that it’s almost impossible for us to fully comprehend, and the only way we can is to see with the eyes of our new reality, with is FAITH.**
- **Only by faith can we comprehend... last week...**

Romans 10:9-13 *If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹ As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

- **FAITH: Why I need God. Trouble I’m in without him**
- **FAITH: Magnitude of what Christ did**
- **FAITH: What I’m saved from, but more, saved TO...**
- **START to comprehend, will result in desire to TELL!**

† The call to **tell** and a word on predestination

- **Big theme of Romans 9-11 is that God is SOVEREIGN. Part of his sovereignty, saw in 9, is that HE CALLS US. HE is the potter, WE are the clay, and purely by his mercy, HE draws us to himself.**
- **If you missed, Go back through 9...**
- **QUESTION: If God calls us, why bother TELLING?**
- **ANSWER IS TEXT TODAY... FOCUS SHIFTS TO OUR RESPONSE to God’s call, and the need to HEAR.**

Romans 10:14-17 ¹⁴ *How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” ¹⁶ But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” ¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.*

Matthew 28:18-20 *Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

- **In light of God being in control, why do we TELL?**
- **Because Joy/freedom of Christ compels us**
- **Because SCRIPTURE CALLS US TO TELL.**
- **GOD IS IN CONTROL, and at same time, WE MUST HEAR AND CHOOSE. In our mind, these are exclusive, and many over generations have attempted to prove one by disproving other- big theories (C&A) BUT WE CANT.... BOTH are biblical...**

If we are to understand what Paul is saying in Romans, both truths at the same time, no matter how hard we find it to reconcile them one to another. (LEON MORRIS)

- As believers, does God call us to Himself? YES!
- As believers, did we hear the Gospel and choose to call out to God? YES!

– **SO NOW... back to text... the secret to having...**

† Beautiful Feet!

V 13: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Romans 10:14-15 *How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*

- **NT calls us, in many places and ways, to be BEARERS OF THE GOSPEL. Not out of guilt, legalism, obligation, but out of love and joy. To be sure, God uses us in different ways for this.**
- **But common to all of what we call 'evangelism', FOUR things we must see!**
 - To call upon God, they must BELIEVE- IN CHRIST
 - **Paul opened his letter with "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes"**
 - **It does our world, our friends, NO GOOD to try and squeeze them into a Christian moral box, or even to teach them to pray, apart from faith in Christ.**
 - **Our world doesn't need RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY, it needs Jesus.**
 - To believe, they must HEAR
 - **Subtle... NIV "believe in one OF WHOM they have not heard"... actual greek... "WHOM THEY have not heard." POINT... people need to hear from JESUS.**
 - **When we share the Gospel, we aren't just telling people about Jesus, but JESUS IS REVEALING HIMSELF through us.**
 - **2 Cor 5:20: We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.**
 - To hear, someone must PREACH
 - **In first century, reading wasn't option for most. To hear the Gospel, they had to HEAR. Meaning, someone had to PREACH. NOW, the word 'preach' has some baggage...**
 - **"Preach" as preaching down.. moral superiority.. "Stop preaching at me!"**
 - **"Preach" as what I'm doing now. A designated person, probably trained and 'ordained' for the purpose, speaking at a set time for a set purpose. The idea of the 'Sunday sermon' is inside here, but Paul's meaning is broader, and much simpler...**
 - **To PREACH is simply to TELL. Idea of a messenger with a precious message to give... only qualification of that messenger is that HE OR SHE is SENT.**
 - To preach, one must be SENT
 - **This is important. Anyone who brings the GOOD NEWS doesn't do so on their own. We are SENT. Who sends us?**
 - **We see in Acts Paul, Barabas, others being SENT by other believers, by the church**
 - **Today, Christian culture, pastors are 'sent' by seminaries, by denominations, by churches**

- **THESE CAN ALL BE GOOD, BUT ONLY IF THE REAL MEANING OF THIS IS PRESENT... We who bear the gospel are SENT BY GOD. It is a 'divine commission'**
- **MUST SAY... this is where historic Christianity, leading up to Christian culture today, often gets into the weeds. We do this by elevating the HUMAN POSITION of PASTOR/TEACHER... only special people, with special qualifications, have received this divine commission. WE CREATE OFFICES, WE ORDAIN, WE DRESS FUNNY, all sorts of authority structures, ceremony... NOT PICTURE OF NEW TESTAMENT!**
- **Does God call and equip certain people in certain ways for certain purposes? YES! Of course! Public speaking of the gospel is one of these. But idea that a SELECT FEW are called to Preach (messenger), and these preachers are also exclusively called to be pastors, and church business leaders, ministry leaders... THE WHOLE MASSIVE CONSTRUCT of PROFESSIONAL CLERGY that has grown up over 1700 years, IS SCARCELY FOUND in the NT.**
- **HEAR!! The church leadership structure we have today isn't necessarily WRONG or BAD, it's just not BIBLICALLY MANDATORY. But it does become WRONG when, and if, it keeps us from seeing THIS TRUTH PAUL SHOWS US HERE...**
- **WE ALL ARE SENT. We are not all public speakers. We don't all have the gift of evangelism. But in the way that God has created us, gifted us, we ALL ARE SENT to be part of bringing the GOSPEL to our world. AND WHEN WE EXPRESS THIS MISSION... we have BEAUTIFUL FEET.**
- **Don't miss... the most humble, utilitarian, often dirty, maybe even stinky part of us... our feet... is made beautiful when God gets ahold of us and uses us for his purpose.... When a teenager is moved by Spirit of Jesus to show compassion to a friend, pray for them... when a coworker... when a friend...**
- **HAVING made this great proclamation, Paul turns to reality we all know, that we once were part of... story of ISRAEL, but also of humanity....**

✠ Israel's story, humanities story

Romans 10:16-17 *But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?"*

- **Not everyone believes. You can hear the desperation in Isaiah's voice. People hear, they see, but they don't believe. "ACCEPTED" is really "OBEYED". To reject the gospel is to disobey God.**
- **Does this mean that its' pointless to tell? Far from it. Paul reminds us...**

¹⁷ *Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.*

✠ Israel's response, God's plan

- **But what do we think when people don't respond? How is God at work here?... We see this in God's response to Israel...**

Romans 10:18-21 *But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did: "Their voice (Psalm 19:4- voice of nature) has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."*

– **Not that the entire world has heard the gospel, but that for the Jews, as a nation, they HAD HEARD. They should have responded, but they didn't. TODAY, as a nation, we have heard! And yet, we are ignoring...**

– **BUT HOW IS GOD THEN AT WORK?**

¹⁹ Again I ask: Did Israel not understand? First, Moses says,

"I will make you envious by those who are not a nation;

I will make you angry by a nation that has no understanding."

²⁰ And Isaiah boldly says,

"I was found by those who did not seek me;

I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me."

– **HERE Paul introduces what he will fully explain in chapter 11. Christ came to God's people, the Jews. Israel rejected Jesus... and God used this rejection to bring the Gospel to... US. Those without a nation, those who had no understanding. To those who weren't even listening or seeking, THE GOSPEL CAME.**

– **FRIENDS! MAY WE NEVER THINK THAT GOD IS NOT AT WORK!**

– **Paul concludes...**

²¹ But concerning Israel he says, *"All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people."*

– **Held out hands... gesture of patience, waiting...**

– **This is where ISRAEL'S story becomes MY STORY. OUR STORY. Disobedient and obstinate.**

† Israel's story, my story

– **I grew up hearing the gospel. I understood. For a while I walked the walk, talked the talk. But then I fully stepped into the role of being disobedient and obstinate- at least in regards to God.**

– **But God held out his hands to me... he didn't lose patience.**

– **He sent a youth worker, who told my mom to tell me about a church in Charleston....**

– **I don't even remember that youth volunteers name... but I do know one thing about her... SHE HAS BEAUTIFUL FEET...**

– **Don't lose patience. Don't lose hope. Our culture is is disobedient and obstinate, just as we were, and often are... BUT GOD IS AT WORK. HE IS AT WORK THROUGH YOU, AND THROUGH ME... in the unique way he has created us, to walk through the doors he will open for us... TO HAVE BEAUTIFUL FEET...**

– **To BE SENT... so that**

– **WE MAY TELL... so that**

– **THEY MAY HEAR... so that**

– **THEY MAY BELIEVE.... So that**

– **THEY MAY CALL UPON THE LORD**