

8-9-20 Communion

Sermon- Beautiful Feet

Scripture- Romans 10:5-15, CTW Psalm 105:1-6

Hymns- 36, 437

Theme- Beautiful Feet do work for the Kingdom. They are creative, they offer help, and they are humble enough to do it. Have you checked your feet lately?

I. Beautiful Feet Are Busy Feet

Here's the true story of Bill Barnes, a creative Miami, Florida, pastor who resolved to stop staring at the homeless in Dade County and do something about them. Bill Barnes had an idea!

Since other people were giving the homeless sandwiches, he decided to give them shoes or socks.

A. Dubbing it the "S.O.S." project (for "Shoes or Socks"), Barnes found a donor who funded the purchase of new socks and another who gave free new sneakers to the church in assorted men's, women's and children's sizes.

Barnes then contacted a local podiatrist to help out, since one of the biggest health problems of the homeless is their feet. The podiatrist enlisted some already overloaded medical students at a local medical school, who agreed to donate some of their precious free time to assist with foot examinations and medicine.

Now Barnes faced his toughest customers: his own parishioners. He recommended to the church they begin their "S.O.S." homeless program with a foot washing service on Maundy Thursday. Would they commit to washing the feet of as many homeless as they could convince to come?

You can imagine the hesitation that followed. But one lay leader stood up and demanded of her brothers and sisters: "The real question is, are we humble enough to do it?"

B. Those church members who weren't humble enough then, soon became humble. Just before the appointed Maundy Thursday service, a homeless woman was electrocuted on one of the local streets during a rainstorm. She had stepped barefooted on a metal drain underneath which was a broken power line.

The news reports stated that had she been wearing rubber soled shoes she would not have been killed. Unable to identify the woman, a local coalition of homeless ministries organized an interfaith memorial service. The date selected was Maundy Thursday.

They spread the word through Social Services, bread lines, mission houses, that there would be free medical treatment and sneakers available to all who attended.

Many came and received spiritual and physical care that Maundy Thursday. The church showed over 500 homeless, habitually downtrodden and despised souls that they cared about their bodies and their souls.

They gave out more than 500 pairs of shoes and many more socks - they only stopped because they ran out of larger men's sizes.

To those with the most need, they did not hand out pious platitudes... they handed out sneakers! Instead of prayerful brochures, they offered podiatry.

These Christians attended to their brothers' and sisters' bodily needs as well as to their spiritual longings.

II. The Call For Active Beautiful Feet in Romans 10:5-15

A. Beautiful Feet can become creative just like the the pastor in our opening story.

- **Paul believed the Law could not save you in the way Moses describes in the Old Testament.**

• **Paul believed Zeal could not save you. Paul's fellow Jews were zealous for God, but their zeal was not based on knowledge.**

The Jews' zeal for God **see Ac 21:20; 22:3; Gal 1:14** was commendable in that God was its object, but it was flawed because it was not based on right knowledge about God's way of salvation

• Paul had an idea about Jesus: "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

B. Beautiful Feet Donate or Offer Their Lives, their Time and their energy, Mayo Angelo said, "All God's children need walking shoes." Maybe we need working shoes, and loving-caring shoes!

- Remember the overloaded med students who donated some of their free time to assist with foot examinations and medicine.
- Consider your own Beautiful Feet as you offer whatever the Lord tells you to do in order to serve Him in this community.

C. Beautiful feet "Are Humble Enough to Do It". Those Maundy Thursday Foot Washing services...are we humble enough to do that?

- Paul asks the redeemed if they are humble enough to accept **ALL** people for there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all.
- Paul asks if we are humble enough to share, to hear, to go, to put on good news gospel shoes .

Remember his words to us in verses 14 and 15: "How can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Put on Good News Gospel Shoes and start walking, and walking.

Do you think that we have a "good church?"

What do you say about your church? If you have been blessed, do you think you can become a blessing to others?

D. Beautiful Feet Brain Storm, Beautiful feet donate and offer, and come closer to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

- Beautiful feet are beautiful because they have put on Traveling Shoes or Walking Shoes , "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news, let us share good news not bad news."
- Beautiful Feet are beautiful because they Believe as Paul states in this passage: "By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures."
- Beautiful Feet are beautiful because they are wearing Good News Gospel Shoes.
- Beautiful Feet Respect the poor and downtrodden of the world.
- Beautiful Feet respond in love and compassion to everyone in need.
- Beautiful Feet help the burdened they do not make or create burdens.
- Beautiful Feet offer hospitality, clothing , shelter, and food.
- Beautiful Feet offer fellowship and peace.
- Make those feet beautiful by putting on traveling shoes, witness walkers, good news gospel shoes.

Let us come to God's table today, prepared for the Holy Spirit to move us all in the direction of service to the kingdom, from our heads to our feet, Amen? Let Us Pray...

BEGIN COMMUNION SERVICE...