

Introduction:

- On generational Sunday I shared with us from John 4:27-42. “Jesus said, “the fields are white unto harvest but the laborers are few ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into the fields.”
 - My goal in preaching this was to show us the joy that Jesus had in his heart as he overlooked the harvest field. He was not mad or stressed that there were no laborers. He was announcing His joy in seeing that the fields were ready for harvest.
 - I compared that to when Peter went fishing and caught so many fish. What did he do? He shouted, “the harvest is so great in my net come help!” It was not a shout of discouragement because he had so many fish. It was a shout of joy because of the catch. That is the heart of Jesus as He looks at the fields white unto harvest.
 - The harvest is truly beautiful to the one who sees what Jesus is looking at.
 - Not only is the harvest beautiful but the scripture is also very clear of how beautiful are the feet of the those who bring good news. What are you bringing to your sphere of influence?
- Romans 10:15 “*But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”*” (Romans 10:14–15, NLT)
- Most all of us can relate to a time in our lives when someone came at just the right time with that which brought great relief and we just raved, “It is so good to see you!”

1. Beautiful Are the Feet of Jesus!

- Is 52:7 and Nah 1:15 *How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news.* NKJV
 Jesus came from heaven to earth to give us Good News! To show us the way to God. To show us God the Father. “If you have seen me you have seen the Father.” To demonstrate how much God loves us! He doesn’t want to condemn us but to save us.
 - It’s hard to be solemn when you bring good news. He was, if I can say it this way, ‘a happy Christian!’ He was not a ‘downer’ to be around if you were a sinner, or if you were in a hard place in life. He gave life to people when He encountered them.
 - What are we giving people when we encounter them? Ie. I was touched yesterday when I received a FB post from a high school friend saying, “We are all proud of you and glad that you are still a great friend!”
 - Jesus had “Happy Feet!” He was not dull and boring. He was not condemning.
- His feet were beautiful because He was a man of mercy and kindness.
 - Luke 7:36-39 Woman who was a sinner. Those who receive mercy from Jesus are so humbled to be receiving His mercy.
 - knelt behind Jesus
 - Washed His feet with her tears
 - Dried them with her hair
 - Kissed them and anointed them with oil.
 - Why did she do that? Jesus gave her back her dignity. He erased her debt (forgiveness). Gave her what she did not deserve, like all of us. “*Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn’t offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair.”*” (Luke 7:44, NLT)
- His feet were beautiful because He was sent to save us. To deliver us from sin and restore us to God.
 - Every person who comes to know Christ has a testimony of thanks because of what He has done.
 - Every person who comes to know Christ is thankful that Jesus came to them.
 - Jesus was sent to bring Good News, He was the Good News and that makes His feet beautiful.
 To those who have received Him into their hearts we say, “He came at just the right time!” Beautiful!

- d. His feet were beautiful because He was a friend to sinners. Cross ref. Is 52:7. Like Paul was to the Gentiles, who the Jews did not like.
- Luke 15:1
 - NKJV - *friend of sinners*.
 - NLT - *tax collectors and other notorious sinners came to listen to Jesus*.
 - Message - *By this time a lot of men and women of doubtful reputation were hanging around Jesus, listening intently*.
 - Amplified - *Now the tax collectors and [notorious and 'especially wicked] sinners were all coming near to [Jesus] to listen to Him*. Why is it that sinners do not want to hang out around us? Just asking... One reason is:
 - ii. His feet went to where they were and then they came to where He was!

2. Beautiful Are the Feet of Those Who Go

- Our feet are beautiful when we realize that we too are sent.
 - Paul in Romans 10 is talking about those who do not know the love of God. He is saying, "How will they ever hear if someone does not tell them." He then quotes Is 52:7 which is a messianic Psalm about Jesus coming to us bringing Good News from heaven! We did not know about God's amazing love until Jesus demonstrated it to us. Amplified "*How beautiful! Breath taking!*"
 - Think of the beauty of Acts 2! Three thousand saved on the first day of the Sent Ones!
 - Think of the beauty of Acts 8:28-38 Phillip preaches, one on one to the Ethiopian. He can't understand, Phillip begins teaching him, they pass by water and the Ethiopian wants to be baptized!.
 - You are not taking a philosophy, or a religion to a people. You are taking the Lord Jesus Christ, the Living Word to people who are without life. To those who are perishing the Gospel is this is Good News and those who bring it are welcome, and their presence is beautiful! Ie. Phil Smethurst ... tribe hearing the Gospel for the first time, "What else did the Son of God have to say?"
 - Therefore we too, must go to those who have not heard and tell them of God's amazing love and demonstrate it to them as well. Ie., it is what the Overland Mission AMT did this week past week in Chippepo. They went house to house just meeting, talking to people. (They were afraid of the white people. [1954]. They attended a village funeral and helped to dig the grave of the deceased. They played soccer with them. And in the midst of all of these activities they proclaimed the love of God for the people of Chippepo on the soccer field, at the funeral and at their homes.
 - Jesus first sent out the 12 disciples. Later He sends out the 70. He is still sending us today. We must see the fields that are white to harvest and rejoice that we have been invited by the King to enter that field.
- Our feet are beautiful when we too walk with mercy and kindness.
 - 1 Cor 13 Paul teaches the Corinthians a 'more excellent way'...it was the way of love.
 - James 2:13 "*Mercy triumphs over judgment*." Gk. *katakaucháomai*. This word expresses the element of comparative superiority in boasting¹. Message Bible: *Talk and act like a person expecting to be judged by the Rule that sets us free. For if you refuse to act kindly, you can hardly expect to be treated kindly. Kind mercy wins over harsh judgment every time.*
 - It is the kindness of God that leads to repentance. We are His expression in the church today.
- Our feet are beautiful when we release the message of Good News. Ie. Have you ever been in a crowd of people talking and you can hear the buzz of conversation all around you and then someone says, 'free', and that totally captures your attention? You want to know what is free? That is what the good news is like. People want it. They do not want religion, they want to know Christ in us.

¹ Joseph Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon*.

¹ Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

- d. Our feet are beautiful when we are friends to sinners.
 - i. Sinners were attracted to Jesus. What is it about us that does not attract sinners. Ask yourself, "Why are sinners not attracted to me like they were Jesus?"
 - ii. Jesus went where they were and they came to where He was. Jesus went because he realized He was sent. We need that realization in our heart, that we too are sent.
 - iii. Pastoral caution: if you are not strong enough to stand in your faith I do not advise you to go to the places that you will fall in. Wait until you are strong in the faith and then move within the realm of accountability.
 - iv. When the beauty of God fills your heart, sinners will want to sit with you.

3. Beautiful Are Those Who Hear and Receive the Good News

- a. John 4:35 How beautiful are the fields white unto harvest. The field was beautiful to Jesus because He saw before Him, fruit! The disciples saw sinners, saw people but Jesus saw those people as redeemed unto God.
- b. *"But joyful are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in the Lord their God."*
(Psalm 146:5, NLT)
- c. I was with a young AMT student this week who was only 8 months old in the Lord. His testimony, "I was 2 pack a day smoker, addicted to prescription drugs, suicidal in my thoughts and went to a church and got saved!" He told of how God delivered him. He also told the people of Chippepo how God accepted him. You see he had tattoos up and down each arm of what the world would judge as not Christian yet God accepted him! A young man with out God, his life slowly self destructing and suddenly transformed in a moment! Beautiful!!!

Conclusion:

- In his book, The Passion for Souls, Oswald Smith wrote about Dr. Alexander Duff: "Dr. Alexander Duff, that great veteran missionary to India, returned to Scotland to die, and as he stood before the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, he made his appeal, but there was no response. In the midst of his appeal he fainted and was carried off the platform. The doctor bent over him and examined his heart. Presently he opened his eyes. "Where am I?" he cried. "Where am I?" "Lie still," said the doctor. "Your heart is very weak." "But," exclaimed the old warrior, "I must finish my appeal. Take me back. Take me back. I haven't finished my appeal yet." "Lie still," said the doctor again, "You are too weak to go back." But the aged missionary struggled to his feet, his determination overcoming his weakness; and with the doctor on one side and the moderator on the other side, the old white-haired warrior was led again to the platform, and as he mounted the pulpit steps, the entire Assembly rose to do him honor. Then he continued his appeal. "When Queen Victoria calls for volunteers for India," he exclaimed, "hundreds of young men respond; but when King Jesus calls, no one goes." Then he paused. Again he spoke. "Is it true," he asked, "that Scotland has no more sons to give for India?" Again he paused. "Very well," he concluded, "if Scotland has no more young men to send to India, then, old and decrepit though I am, I will go back, and even though I cannot preach, I can lie down on the shores of the Ganges and die, in order to let the peoples of India know that there is at least one man in Scotland who cares enough for their souls to give his life for them." In a moment young men, all over the assembly, sprang to their feet, crying out, "I'll go! I'll go! I'll go!"
- Who will go for Jesus and for Freedom this morning?