

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

Commentary by Michael Sigler

November 30, 2014

### Beautiful Feet

Read Isaiah 52:1-2, 7-12

**Key verse: “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of a messenger who proclaims peace, who brings good news, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God rules!’” (Isaiah 52:7).**

Christian hip-hop artist Lecrae, in a song titled “Beautiful Feet,” challenges Christians to take the message of Jesus and his saving grace to those who need it most. The song ends with these words: “You hold the truth that saves, so run and shout it to the world. They can’t believe in something they ain’t never heard. Go, go, go, and run with those beautiful feet.”

Lecrae’s song has Biblical roots that go back to the time of Isaiah, the Old Testament prophet. Isaiah 52:1-12 concludes a prophecy that calls Jerusalem (Zion) to awaken from the bondage of exile (vv. 1-2). Verses 7-10 describe God as returning to Jerusalem. And in verses 11-12, God through the prophet calls the exiled Jewish community to leave Babylon and return to their homeland.

It is verse 7 that describes the beautiful feet of one who brings good news. In its immediate context, this image brought to mind the messenger who would run from the scene of a battle to bring the good news of victory to his waiting king and people. Isaiah takes this idea as a metaphor for the message of deliverance from exile: “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of a messenger who proclaims peace, who brings good news, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God rules!’” (v. 7)

New Testament writers saw these words and this prophecy as prefiguring salvation through Christ and the Christian’s calling to spread the good news:

“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? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’” (Romans 10:14-15)

“Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace” (Ephesians 6:14-15).

Is the message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ still good, good news to us? Too good to keep to ourselves? Are we willing for God to send us running on “beautiful feet” to share Jesus with others?

If the answer to these questions is “no” or “I’m not sure,” maybe we need to step back and be reminded of the good, good news of Jesus:

*Imagine the mystery and delight of not just hearing, but seeing the story of Jesus for the first time, almost as an eyewitness. That’s what happened to a tribe in the jungles of East Asia when missionaries showed “The Jesus Film.” Not only had these people never heard of Jesus, they had never seen a motion picture. Then, on one unforgettable evening, they saw it all—the gospel in their own language, visible and real.*

*Imagine again how it felt to see this good man, Jesus, who healed the sick and was adored by children, held without trial and beaten by jeering soldiers. As they watched this, the people came unglued. They stood up and began to shout at the cruel men on the screen, demanding that this outrage stop.*

*When nothing happened, they attacked the missionary running the projector. Perhaps he was responsible for this injustice! He was forced to stop the film and explain that the story wasn’t over yet; there was more. So they settled back onto the ground, holding their emotions in tenuous check.*

*Then came the crucifixion. Again, the people could not hold back. They began to weep and wail with such loud grief that, once again, the film had to be stopped. The missionary again tried to calm them, explaining that the story still wasn’t over; there was more. So they composed themselves and sat down to see what happened next.*

*Then came the resurrection. Pandemonium broke out this time, but for a different reason. The gathering had spontaneously erupted into a party. The noise now was of jubilation, and it was deafening. The people were dancing and slapping each other on the back. Christ is risen, indeed!*

*Again the missionary had to shut off the projector. This time he didn’t tell them to calm down and wait for what was next. All that was supposed to happen—in the story and in their lives—was happening. (As told by Ben Patterson in Leadership Journal).*

How beautiful are the feet of the one who brings good news, who proclaims salvation.

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