

Beautiful are the feet that preach the gospel

REVIEW: Romans 10

v.10 "For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

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

Let us proclaim the gospel to ourself and be saved.

Verse 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?"

These are the words of Mrs. Mary Derkson when she received God's calling as a missionary in Japan, and she shared them with us in her testimony in July 2020. She went to Japan as a missionary in 1954 and evangelized for 45 years. She said that in order to believe the gospel, confess it with our mouth, and be saved, we must first hear the gospel from another. However, it is impossible to hear the gospel without someone to preach it. So, there must always be someone to preaching the gospel. And we have to do it.

Verse 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!"

This verse is taken from [Isaiah 52:7](#). "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" When I read this verse, I can imagine the feet of missionaries and evangelists climbing mountains. Those feet will never be pretty. They would have been dirty because they went up to the mountains to preach the good news, but the Bible says that their feet are beautiful.

I once heard the testimony of a Korean pastor. I heard his testimony that he had a dramatic encounter with Jesus Christ when he was in high school. At that time, he thought to himself like this: why did I just hear this gospel NOW? I had many Christian friends around me in my class. Until now no one of them told me about Jesus. Oh, I am angry with that!" So, he stood in front of the class that day and said with crying, "Christians, come out, all of you! Why didn't you tell me such a wonderful gospel?" This testimony was so funny that I heard it with laughter, but I remember being very sorry about that as a Christian. [2 Timothy 4:2](#) "Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season." The apostle Paul encourages us to preach the gospel. If we do it, surprisingly, there may be people around us who have not heard the gospel yet.

In verses 16-18, we see the responds of those who have heard the gospel.

Verse 16 says, "But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says. "Lord, who has believed our message?" Many of the Jews of that time heard the gospel directly from Jesus. And they heard it from the disciples. And now from Paul as well. But even though many Jews heard the gospel, they didn't believe it.

Verse 17: "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ." We believe by hearing what the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ means.

Verse 18: "But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course, they did: "Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."

In verse 19, we can see God's unique plan to make Israel believe in Jesus, His only Son.

Verse 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."

At that time, the gospel had already been spread throughout the world. Israel, Rome, Asia, Greece, Egypt, Ethiopia, and so on. However, many people in Israel did not believe in the gospel of Jesus even though they heard it.

This is where God's interesting and mysterious strategy and plan began. God wanted to cause Israel to become jealous through the Gentiles who had not believed in Him. For example, Kenta was in kindergarten. One day, Kenta's friend, Kaito, came to visit to my house. I prepared carrots and chips as a snack. However, my son Kenta hates carrots. By the way, Kaito, Kenta's friend loved carrots and said, "Yummy! Yummy!" He was eating them up. Seeing this, I started praising him. "What a such a good boy! I am so proud of you." When Kenta saw this situation and Kenta became to be so envious that he ate a carrot, which he hated. This is a common scene in raising children.

A similar situation appears in this scripture. God wanted the Jews, the chosen one to see how the Gentiles were saved and abundantly blessed by believing in Jesus, and to cause them to be envious, so that they would eventually believe in Jesus Christ. God is really an interesting with a parental heart. In fact, if you look at the 2023 world GDP ranking, the United States, which can be said to be a Christian country, is number one, and Germany, England, France, Italy, Canada, and other countries are in the top 10, while Israel is number 29. When I listen to pastors who are evangelizing Israel, they say that Israeli youth are envious of Western countries, which can be called Christian countries. And they say that the number of Jewish Christians, called Messianic Jews, is increasing. God's strategy hit the jackpot! Hallelujah!

Applying this phenomenon to us, it means that those around us who do not yet believe will become envious and believe when they see God richly blessing our lives.

Verse 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." These words are a reference to *Isaiah 65:1*. "I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, 'Here am I, here am I.' The Gentiles did not live the holy lives because they did not have the Law of God, and they did not know how to seek and find God. But when the Gentiles sought God, God said to them, "Here am I, here am I!" God revealed Himself to the Gentiles. God was pleased that the Gentiles believed in Him.

By the way, if God loves the Gentiles, did God abandon the Israelites? No! Look at *verse 21*. But concerning Israel he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people."

This verse quotes *Isaiah 65:2*. "All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations." God has not stopped loving them despite the disobedience of His people Israel. Throughout history, Jews have experienced holocausts because of the wrong biblical interpretation that God will not save them because they disobeyed Jesus Christ. This is a false biblical interpretation. God has never given up for a moment on the salvation of the elect Jews. He is waiting all day long for their return. The mission for Israel is very active now. Although there are always dangers in the region due to the Palestinian issue, many missionaries are going to Israel and also the Gaza Strip to preach the gospel. Apart from the political relations, we Christians should pray and preach the gospel so that Israel will hear the gospel of Jesus Christ, believe in it, and be saved.

God's waiting with open arms for Israel's evangelism can be applied to us as well. It is very important to pray for the salvation of our family and friends who have not yet believed and to invite them to church without giving up. Now, I am leading a small group at the Tokyo Baptist church I attend, and I sometimes have people who have left the Unification Church, one of the big cult groups. In fact, one lady had been refusing for a long time, but last month she reluctantly came to the Christmas service, heard the gospel, and suddenly decided to be baptized the following week. Thankfully, 2 weeks ago she was baptized in front of every one of the churches.

These days in Japan, there is a wrong information widely that religion is something to be feared due to the problems of cults and second-generation of cult. However, this is the time to be should share the gospel more eagerly. When they involved in the cult, they had bought a book called the canonical book of the cult for 3 million yen. That is why when I share the gospel with them who have left cults, they are all surprised that the gospel is unconditional! And also, I am surprised when I hear their experiences.

At Last, I thought that what those who look at us make them to be jealous. If it were to the extent that believing in Jesus would make, we successful or cure us of a disease, it would be no different from any other religion. But, as Christians, we have to have other skill we are good at. That is loving one another in God. Jesus said this to His disciples. **John 13:34-35, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must one another (34). By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love on another (35)."** If we can get people around us to realize that there is love in the Jesus we believe in, people may surely be willing to go to church and believe in Jesus. For the gospel of the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ is full of life and love. Let us examine this Word this week and serve our families, neighborhood and friends with the love of Christ. More forgive and more love one another.

**Let us declare here! My feet are beautiful as I share the Gospel! I love one another!**

Let's pray together. Loving Heavenly Father. Thank you for your word today. The gospel of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection saves us. Use us to be proclaimers of the gospel to many people. The Holy Spirit, help us to love one another. And lead us so that many will see this love and join us in the love of Jesus Christ. We thank you and pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.