

**Introduction:**

- We are setting out to be more evangelistic this year. The cry is: "Jesus reshape me into what you want me to be in order that I may reach others for you."
  - What was Jesus thinking when He chose the 12? He was thinking about how he was going to turn this rag tag crew into a Harvesting Machine! Will people meet Jesus when they meet us?
  - Jesus was attractive not because of looks (Isaiah 53) but because He was welcoming, carried presence and power, and was life giving to all who encountered Him.
- Three things this morning: Happy feet are feet that are moving for Jesus! Getting plowed is a way of life for the fruitful. Fruit follows the plowing of ground.

**I. Happy Feet** - are the feet that are glad to be going in obedience to the Master's call.

- A. Friday night I went to the Avenues to pray over it and the people gathered there. And later I watched as our FCC people walked around and ministered to so many. I watched the beauty of the Lord upon them.
  1. They were welcoming. And people seemed to welcome them.
  2. They carried the presence of God and power.
  3. Every where they went they brought life and gave life away, freely.
  4. So proud of them. Thank you for being great witnesses. Jesus is reshaping us to be more outreach oriented.
- B. Our text today: *"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 10:15, NLT) Isaiah 52:7\* 8-10.
- C. Salvation is granted to everyone who calls on the name of the Lord! vs. 13. 'Call on the Lord' is another way of saying 'believe.' Paul asks four questions: (vs 14) Read 14. Now let me make the questions a statement.
  1. But, people can't call on the Lord if they do not believe in him.
  2. People can't believe in him if they do not hear the word that proclaims Christ.
  3. And that word that proclaims Christ will not be heard unless someone preaches it or announces it.
  4. A preacher is nothing more than a herald, a person entrusted by another with a message. Preaching won't happen unless someone sent...goes!
- D. The beautiful/happy feet are those who went.
  1. They went out! They left the comfort of where they were to tell others the Good News that they had discovered and obtained.
    - a) What keeps us from getting the Good News to those who are perishing?
      - (1) Busy schedule
      - (2) To tired
      - (3) And fear.

- (4) Now let me put this into perspective. Tim, you are too busy to help someone who is perishing? You are too tired to help? You are afraid they may reject you or laugh at you???
2. They went out into the fields that are white for the harvest. *"For it is Christ's love that fuels our passion and motivates us, because we are absolutely convinced that he has given his life for all of us..."* (2 Corinthians 5:14, TPT)
  3. The fields are where the fruit is! The farmer lives to bring in the harvest (his actions are purpose driven) and he lives (literally) by gathering that harvest.
  4. Beautiful feet are feet that are moved to action.

## II. Getting Plowed

- A. Holy Spirit, come and help us! *"Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you."* (Hosea 10:12, ESV)
1. Righteousness and steadfast love are covenant terms. God is reminding Israel not only of who He is but of who they are.
  2. They are to be His light and His representatives to the world, that God might be known to the world through them.
  3. The problem is the gap between their calling and their performance as the people of God.
- B. There are two kinds of ground in this passage and in Jeremiah 4:3.
1. There is fallow ground. Fallow ground is ground that has been left unplanted for a period of time. It is untilled ground.
    - a) A.W. Tozer described fallow ground as *"smug, contented, protected from the shock of the plow. It lies there year after year."* A.W. Tozer, Paths to Power P17. It has stability. It is safe.
    - b) But, the price of the fallow ground is that it does not see fertility therefore it does not produce for the farmer. It only gives up weeds not ripening grain.
  2. There is plowed ground. This is ground that has been broken up or tilled. It is being prepared for seed to be sown.
    - a) See picture: (picture 1) tractor and plow, with harrow.
    - b) The cultivated field (see tractor plowing field- Picture 2 & 3) is breaking up the ground. To the farmer this is fun! It brings him joy because this is the beginning of harvest. The adventure is on! The peace of the fallow ground is given to the thunder of diesel engines and implement tearing up the land. But there's great reward for the breaking and tearing of the land. Seed will be sown and young shoots will spring upward reaching for the sun's light and in this new world it will mature and bear fruit.
- C. There are two kinds of lives! The fallow and the plowed.

1. The fallow life is content with himself and the fruit he once produced.
    - a) He does not want to be disturbed or made uncomfortable.
    - b) The Spirit of adventure is dead in him.
    - c) This man is what he will be. He has shut the gate to God and the miracle of life!
  2. The plowed life is the person that welcomes the tilling of his soul.
    - a) He flings open the gate of his soul with repentance!
    - b) He is no longer content to be barren and fruitless. He forsakes safety and risks it all "to go!"
    - c) He knows that fruit always follows the plow! Like Ezra he testifies, "*The hand of the Lord was upon me!*"
- D. Two kinds of activity.
1. Energy producing activity.
    - a) These are those moved by the Holy Spirit to take risks. They can't stay motionless as they are plowed by God!
    - b) The miracles of God goes where His people go. It stops when they stop.
    - c) Ie. Abraham 'went out!' Not knowing where he was going!
    - d) Moses heard the call of God and went to Egypt to deliver his people.
  2. Stationary-without motion.
    - a) wanting peace, wanting rest, busy within the four walls.
    - b) Israel 'went down' into Egypt stayed and became slaves!
    - c) Every time Israel slumbered she lost the signs and wonders!

### III. Fruit Follows Plowing

- A. Where people live daringly God works wonders.
- B. The power of God comes where the plow thunders over the soil of our hearts. The power is released through the church, when the church is doing something that demands it!
- C. If we are safe we are fallow! If we are fallow we are fruitless.
- D. God is looking for daring faith to arise in the House of Freedom! The faith of Abraham!
- E. We can talk about the power, but it is in going that we will see the power!
- F. We must no longer be students we must be warriors seeking a new land that the presence of God hovers over!

### Conclusion:

- The plow:
  - The church that fears the plow signs its own death certificate.
  - The church that uses the plow sets in motion a harvest to come!
- "*Whatever we do, we must not treat the Great Commission like it's the Great Suggestion.*"

Charles R. Swindoll (1934- ) is an evangelical Christian pastor, author, educator, and radio preacher. He founded Insight for Living.

- *"The Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became Man for no other purpose."* C. S. Lewis.