

“THE WORD BECAME FEET.”

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Scripture Texts: Isaiah 52:7; Luke 10:38-40; Matthew 28:8-10

Introduction.

Feet must be pretty important to us in the US. We have over 30,000 shoe stores generating about \$50 billion in revenue. I read that the average woman has over 20 pairs. Guys, if you want a present at Christmas don't go home and count how many your wife has.

Jesus' feet were pretty important as we see from numerous Gospel passages. Consider with me on this Third Sunday of Advent that the Word became feet and walked among us.

The Feet of Jesus were human feet.

The feet of Jesus were human feet, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh. His feet were just like ours, 26 bones, 33 joints, and over a hundred muscles and tendons.

His feet started out tiny, able to fit in Mary's hand. Soon there was the pitter patter of little feet around their humble home in Nazareth. He outgrew sandals just as fast as our kids outgrow shoes. Jesus' feet carried Him around the village and His father's shop and off to work sites. How many times did He go to the town well to draw water for Mary or out to the hillside to gather wood for Joseph? And at least once a year if not more Jesus walked with His family to Jerusalem and back for Passover.

There's no mention in the Bible of Jesus ever running. People didn't run a lot in those days. They walked everywhere, the terrain was tough and the climate was hot. You conserved your energy, every chance you had you sat. Go to the Middle East today and you see lots of sitting.

Jesus' feet were well-worn feet from countless, bone-wearying miles of walking.

Jesus walked from southern Lebanon to Egypt, from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River valley. Nazareth to Jerusalem and back would be around 200 miles. And remember that Israel is a fairly hilly and even mountainous terrain. Jesus may have been up Mt. Tabor and Mt. Herman. Jerusalem sits up high on a large plateau 2500 feet above sea level. When He walked there the 20 miles from Jericho He ascended almost 4000 feet, since Jericho is 1300 feet below sea level.

One man on the internet (Arthur Blessitt) has gone through the Gospels and tried to calculate a conservative estimate of how far Jesus walked in His life time. Taking into consideration all the trips to Jerusalem from Nazareth for Passover and other festivals and trips to Capernaum and

around the Sea of Galilee and throughout Judea and Samaria, he comes up with at least 21,000 miles of walking during Jesus' 33 years on earth.

Jesus began His ministry by stepping into the cool, refreshing waters of the Jordan to be baptized by John the Baptist. Later He would walk on the water. Those feet lead Him through countless villages and town, and into numberless homes. He walked along seashores, up hills and mountains, through deep ravines and river valleys, across wildernesses and deserts.

Jesus' feet would have been blistered, calloused, scrapped, dirty, muddy, sore and tired. He frequently sat down to rest like that noon at that Samaritan well.

And of course that mile from Pilate's court to Golgotha was the longest and hardest mile of His entire life, carrying a cross for His crucifixion and for our redemption.

It's not a stretch to say Jesus wore out a hundred pair of sandals in His brief life on earth.

Jesus' feet were servant's feet, used for ministry, for the good of others.

Let's consider briefly all the ministry done at or by the feet of Jesus.

A prostitute found pardon for her sin at the feet of Jesus (Luke 7:38-50). What a service she rendered and what a gift she gave. With her tears she washed Jesus' feet, with her hair she wiped them, with her lips she kissed them and with costly ointment she anointed them.

The lowliest person rendered to the lowliest object, Jesus' feet, her highest service, her greatest affection, her most substantial gift. What Simon the Pharisee should have done out of duty since it was his home, she did out of love, and for this Jesus praised her.

Luke 7:48, 50 "Your sins are forgiven" and "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Our tears of repentance that fall on the feet of Jesus shall receive His joyful forgiveness.

The multitudes found miraculous healing at the feet of Jesus.

Matthew 15:30-31 And great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at his feet, and he healed them, 31 so that the crowd wondered, when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they glorified the God of Israel.

I have this picture of a huge circle with Jesus at the center surrounded by an unnumbered mass of human misery. Jesus attracted human misery. The sick were cast at His feet, the lame, the broken, the handicapped, all in the dust at His dusty feet.

What a picture of the helplessness of humanity. Just lying there, unable to do anything for themselves. What do they bring to this transaction? What argument can they make, what appeal

that Jesus should help them? There's none, they come poor, helpless, empty, broken, having nothing and having no claiming to receive anything.

Their appeal can only be to the mercy and grace and goodness of Jesus. The feet of Jesus are a place of simplicity, a place of simple trust and waiting and hoping, a place of grace.

Individuals received healing at the feet of Jesus. The synagogue ruler Jairus fell at Jesus' feet to beg for healing for his daughter (Luke 8:40ff). Here is a healing in the Bible that is very specific and personal, this isn't one lumped in with the masses. A specific man, Jairus, falls at Jesus' feet to plead on behalf of his only daughter who was about 12 years old.

Jesus cares about individuals and their particular cares and concerns. Jesus is interested in the details. Jesus is not just a healer of the masses. He doesn't just say come next Tuesday when everyone else comes.

What a different picture, a ruler in the dirt at the feet of Jesus. Our needs make all of us human, our needs bring all of us to the same level. The rich and the poor mingle at Children's Hospital and in ICUs and at Jesus' feet.

Followers found wisdom and truth at the feet of Jesus.

Great crowds sat at Jesus' feet for hours and marveled at His teaching. No one before or since has ever taught with such authority and wisdom. And again we see that it wasn't just the nameless faces of a great crowd that benefited from sitting at Jesus, feet, but individuals as well.

Luke 10:38-42 Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, ***who sat at the Lord's feet*** and listened to his teaching. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." 41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, 42 but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Martha was distracted, she was burdened with cares. Jesus gently rebukes her. At the feet of Jesus there is wisdom for living, there is focus for priorities, there's release from our worries and fears. At the feet of Jesus we find food for our souls and rest for our weary minds and hearts.

If you're too busy to find time to sit at the feet of Jesus, too busy to read and study His Word, too busy to pray, too busy to rest, then you are dangerously too busy. Don't just get covered up with shame and guilt, make a small change. Husbands help your wives with this, give them some breaks for this.

The Demon possessed found peace of mind at the feet of Jesus.

Remember the Gadarene (Gerasene) demoniac Jesus delivered by casting the demons into a heard of pigs (Luke 8:26-39)?

Is there any picture of humanity worse than this in the Gospels? There was the human condition at its very worst. Naked, vile, blasphemous, demonic, filled with not just one or a dozen evil spirits but a legion of unclean spirits. A picture hell on earth and Jesus lifts him out of it.

Luke 8:35 Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, *sitting at the feet of Jesus*, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.

At the feet of Jesus a changed man, a man at rest in his soul, a man no longer tormented.

Are you in bondage to sin? Are you pursuing every lust, every desire, every pleasure? Are you wounding your soul over and over again? ***Or*** are you sitting at the feet of Jesus? Are you listening to His voice? Are you clothed and in your right mind?

Are you like this poor man? Are you overwhelmed by His grace, are you overwhelmed by how much He has done for you and what He has delivered you out of? Are you aware of the chains of sin and bondage that He has broken, are you aware of how He has brought you in out of the darkness of the world into the light of His fellowship and peace? Have you heard the voice of Jesus and felt the power of His grace in your life? Do you know this blessed change?

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness.

Some came to give thanks and to worship at the feet of Jesus.

One of the ten lepers:

Luke 17:15-16 ... when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; 16 and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks.

When Jesus greeted Mary Magdalene and the other Mary at the tomb they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him (Matthew 28:9).

When they saw Jesus for the first time after the resurrection, it wasn't His healing hands they grabbed or His thorn crowned head, but His worn, calloused, cracked, dirty tired feet.

When John saw his revelation of Jesus he fell at His feet (Revelation 1:17).

Revelation 7:11-12 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

12 saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

It won't be our only posture in heaven but it will certainly be one of them. If you don't occasionally get on your knees in prayer with your children or your spouse or by yourself, then I commend the practice to you. It will change how you pray, it will humble your soul, it will prepare you for the day when His very presence will drive you there. There are times to stand and lift up holy hands in worship and there are times to fall down in worship.

The crucified feet of Jesus were a place of personal pain and suffering.

Psalm 22:16 they have pierced my hands and feet.

Before the pain and suffering of others were brought to Jesus' feet. On the cross the pain and suffering was in His own feet, it was personal. Searing pain, intense suffering from the rugged spikes driven through those bones and muscles. More agonizing pain everytime He tried to lift Himself up so He could breath.

Before it was the involuntary helplessness of others, now it was His own voluntary helplessness. He humbled Himself and submitted Himself to suffer, to hang on the cross by nails.

People said, “He saved others, but He cannot save Himself.” He veiled His power that He might suffer for us and save us. At Jesus' feet, our salvation.

When Thomas doubted, Jesus showed him His hands and feet to comfort him and remove his doubts and confirm his redemption. He saw and believed and was saved. By faith so are we.

The feet of Jesus, a place of glory and grace.

Revelation 1:12-15 ... I saw ... one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, 15 *his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace.*

And thought His feet are like burnished bronze refined in a furnace, though they reflect the brilliant glory of His divinity and power, they are still a place of grace.

The feet of Jesus are a place of great grace and comfort, a place for sorrow and misery, a place for tears of repentance for one self and tears of pleading for another, a place for rest and wisdom, a place of gratitude and worship.

Isaiah 52:7, Beautiful feet.

Isaiah 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

How beautiful are the feet without which the mountains would never have been climbed, without which Word would never have become flesh, without which there would be no good news.

Christianity is first and foremost good news. Before it's commands or doctrines or ideas or arguments or do's and don'ts, Christianity is gloriously good news. It's news about real events that begs to be told.

Luke 2:10-14 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Follow in the footsteps of Jesus, be the bearer of good news, carry the truth of the Gospel to others, do good, help others, comfort others in their misery, carry others to the feet of Jesus, make straight paths for others to follow. And fall at the feet of Jesus often for wisdom and worship.

Glory to the God who became flesh and feet and walked among us.