

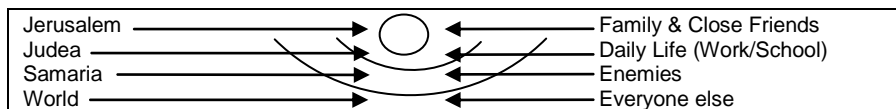
PLOT TWIST

When God Surprises His People

Part 6: The Church with Beautiful Feet

INTRODUCTION — Speaking a Universal Language

Matthew 5:14-16; Romans 10:13-15



History records that the early church grew at a phenomenal rate due to:

- a relentless commitment to spreading the gospel;
- an unbreakable attitude of optimism and enemy-love in the face of persecution;
- an unprecedented dedication to active compassion toward the marginalized; and
- an ongoing openness to the supernatural.

DINE IN – The First Missional Church

Acts 13:1-12

TAKE OUT – I'll Have That to Go Please

TAKE OUT #1 – Diversity in Unity

In Antioch Jews and Gentiles of various backgrounds functioned like brothers and sisters. Whenever a church can reflect the global diversity of the body of Christ in a local setting, Christians experience the Kingdom of God in greater measure and non-believers see a clearer picture of the power of the Kingdom. Each of us should be intentional about building relationships with Christians who are different than us.

TAKE OUT #2 – Discerning and Deciding Together

Absent from the church in Antioch was a lone know-it-all leader who claimed to know God's will and lead with singular authority. *Together* the church listened to God and agreed on how to respond. When trying to discern God's will for your life or your church, we should do so with others.

TAKE OUT #3 – The Priority of Evangelism

No doubt the members of the Antioch church were attached to Paul and Barnabas and would have benefited by their continued teaching. They saw the work that needed to be done in their own city and could have found a thousand reasons to keep them there. But when God said to release them to carry his message further, they didn't hesitate to make the sacrifice. A healthy church is more concerned about the advance of the gospel than their own comfort or personal growth.

CONCLUSION – How Beautiful Are Your Feet?

Romans 10:13-15

Q & Eh? Text 647.330.2789 or email ask@themeetinghouse.ca

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

- A) In general, do you find feet attractive or ugly? B) How about *your* feet? C) Spiritually speaking, according to **Romans 10:13-15**, how beautiful are your feet?

Look to the Book...

- Take some time to review **Acts 13:1-12**. A) What verse, lesson, or idea stands out to you the most? Talk about it. B) How do you think the Holy Spirit spoke to the entire church? What might that look like in your Home Church? C) What do you think is the value of fasting when seeking direction from God? D) What do you think is the value of laying on hands when praying to commission someone for ministry? E) Paul speaks harshly to Bar-Jesus (also called Elymas). Why take such a strong approach? Are there any evangelistic circumstances today that would be appropriate for us to speak so harshly? F) What are the roles that the evidence of the messenger and content of the message play in the conversion of Sergius Paulus? What might that look like today?

So What?...

- Review TAKE OUT #1. What are some ways you can build bridges with Christians who are different than you?
- Review TAKE OUT #2. When you want to figure out God's will (for your life or just in general), what role does (or should) community play in the process?
- Review TAKE OUT #3. In what ways does your own comfort sometimes overpower your desire to spread the gospel? Talk about examples of times when comfort has won and times when your commitment to evangelization has won.
- PRAY... Take time to pray about any issues raised by this passage. Specifically, ask God to help you become more intentional about evangelism. If ideas come to mind, talk together about steps you can take this week to reach others with the gospel. Pray that God would use our New Service Times to bring more people to our services to hear the message and experience his love.

The Meeting House | Sunday, February 21/28, 2010 | Bruxy Cavey

Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching