

Beautiful Feet
Genesis 18:1-10a
July 17, 2022

Don't you love the account we have today? Three guys show up at the encampment of Abraham and Sarah. We all know the situation, Abraham has a wife he loves so much but the Lord has closed her womb. She hasn't been able to have a child. It wasn't like so many today who don't want to bring a child into the world when the Lord has made it plain that we are to bring children into the world. She could not live up to the command of God.

What was the day like for Abraham? It seems like it was like any other day. I'm sure he got up in the morning and thought about the day ahead. He would have gone out of his tent and coordinated the day with his workers, answering any concerns and planning with them as to what may need to be done for sure and what else could be done once the urgent needs were accomplished.

As the day wore on, it got hotter and hotter. I am reminded of that heat when it comes to this time of the year when the humidity increases. In Missouri, I would get a lot of work done in the morning but would take it easy, doing paperwork, making phone calls and the like in the cool of the house and would get out later in the day to do a little more.

Abraham probably had lunch and was resting in the shade of the Mamre oaks. Sarah was maybe cleaning up after the meal and maybe planning for the evening or maybe mending some clothes, who knows?

Abraham it says, lifted uphill eyes and looked. What did he see? Three men who were standing in front of him. How long were they standing there? He must have dozed off or surely he would have heard them coming, walking up into the camp. Having them right in front of him, without him noticing for who knows how long must have been a little embarrassing. He was brought to life it seems when he realizes what is going on. He, in an almost apologetic manner wants to do something for them.

He springs into action, directing someone to bring water to cool and clean their hot feet that must have been traveling for how long and how far is not told. He then says he will give them a little snack of bread but then has Sarah make some bread and another to take the calf he picked out and prepare it to be able to feed the visitors.

This was not going to be just a 20 minute break. This would be an all afternoon affair. He waits on them as they eat the curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared.

In the visiting under the tree while they waited, they asked him where Sarah was. She is in the tent, maybe not wanting to hear man talk or maybe getting to some of the work she was working on before she had to hurriedly make some bread for the visitors.

It is then that we see that one of the three is the Lord, Jesus. Yes, Jesus is there proclaiming what God is going to do, open the womb of a woman who is way past the age to have a child. By next year, she will already have had the child, the son whom they they will name Isaac.

A promised son when, for all the world it wouldn't be possible. No wonder we know how Sarah responded with a laugh. "Yeah, right, visitor". Who are you to walk in herelt was a and tell us that we will have a son in the next year? What must it had been like for her to feel the first movement in her womb to let her know that she was carrying another life? It was a long desired experience and hope, coming true for her, not anyone else, but her as old as she was.

She was promised by the Lord that she would finally get what had been a unfulfilled dream. So many seemed to have children, no problem but now she would be blessed for all to see, blessed with the miracle of the gift of God, a son, her and Abraham's son.

What walked in or appeared that day outside their tent was a hope, a light for the future, their future. Is it any different for any of us who are looking to the future hope, a sure hope of heaven that is ours because the Lord went to the cross, died, rose from the grave and ascended to heaven bodily to rule over heaven and earth?

We are looking to the promise. It may come in a year or maybe after many years when life here, the way we wake up to it day after day is going to be changed.

Abraham and Sarah had waited their whole lives to finally see the promise to Abraham while he was still Abram. It was the promise that the Lord would bless him to be a great nation. Yes, it is just one son and yet where does God begin making a nation, and making it great? Just one.

We think of the promise to Abram, way back, years ago and then think of another promise given to our first parents of a Son, too. It wasn't promised to happen in a year even though Adam and Eve thought it could come that soon as they were thinking, maybe, just maybe their new born son, Cain might just be that promised son. As we know he wasn't, in fact he killed his little brother and was sent out away from the family to be a fugitive and wanderer on the earth.

We too have sinned and fallen short of the way of God. Maybe we haven't killed anyone but as the catechism was taught this past week in VBS, it is not just murder but

it is hurting or doing harm to our neighbor in his body as well as not helping and supporting him in every physical need.

The example I used in South Dakota was one that the Junior High students would all know about and that was the fact that when driving in the country, there would be times when some livestock would get out from their pasture and be grazing along the road or even be lying right on the road. They would be a danger to anyone driving down the road. Most people with animals next to the road have gates every so often, where animals could be put back without taking down the fence. A local would try not to hit the animal or animals but many would look for a gate to put the animal back behind a fence or would know who to call to have them check to see if it was their animal based on the brand it carried.

Yes, you might have to get out and walk, to open a gate or to go to the next homestead, get out, walk to the door to see if they might know whose animal it is. With animals on the road, the chances of an accident happening is great, especially if the light has wained. A life could be saved, not only the animal's but maybe a whole family who may be traveling down that road at just the wrong time.

We want the best for our neighbor and knowing what could happen, we would be willing to take a little time to save a life. God saw that the people on earth were living lives that to themselves was imagined they were getting the greener grass on the other side of the fence but based on the promise way back in the beginning, He knew then that the answer to sin had to be sent into this world so that they could be put back to where they were safe in His love.

Jesus opened the gate for us to walk into the protection of His wings, like the hen who spreads her wings for her chicks. He walked into the world with His beautiful feet that were nailed to that cross, dripping His blood for our sins.

He walked the roads from Galilee to Jerusalem spreading hope to those He met. We see how Abraham had the feet of the three washed, first thing. Mary, poured expensive perfume on the feet of Jesus and wiped them dry with her hair. Yes, feet treated as if they were Royalty. Those feet may not have been royalty but who they were attached to was and is. It was who the feet carried that made all the difference for the crowds that followed Him.

Jesus didn't come, sitting in an easy chair. We only see Him using His feet to get around to many most of the time. We only see Him riding a donkey when He entered Jerusalem for the last time.

Jesus walked into your life for most of us through the water and His Word. He, the Word has become a lamp for our feet to walk in the ways of the Lord. He walked on this earth. He got up each day with an agenda before Him. He went out into the world to be about His Father's work, the work of saving the world, one by one but always looking to the day when He would do what He came to do, walk, with the beautiful feet that would carry that cross as they took Him to His death, on the cross for us.

When we think of beautiful feet, we think of the feet that bring the Good News of Jesus to those who don't know Him or have some false idea of who He is and what He came to bring.

His is not a Gospel of doing just a little more or of doing things better, no, His Gospel is one where we, with our feet as we are going about our days walk into the lives of others, others close to us and others who may only come to know that day. They need to know what our feet are bringing them, the hope that is theirs because the forgiveness of their sins that they in no way can pay for, now or after they die has been taken care of by Jesus.

Everyone knows they are going to die, but then what? Will this creation that could only come about by a loving creator, where no about of time or chance could create a human, let alone any life, be just something fit for the garbage heap? Yes, these bodies will die but what about the life that has been with these bodies to make us who we are? Is it just here and then gone forever or is there value to that life in the eyes of its creator?

We are promised that these bodies will be glorified and will reunite with our life. Yes, after we leave this life we will walk with the beautiful feet of that glorified body that will never experience death again. Life will be as it was intended to be, a life that will live forever in a new heaven and earth, created for us by the one who created us and all things.

Abraham and Sarah were promised a future child, as son. Just the thought must have made them want to dance on their feet. It was a promise that came true only to be one upped in the promise fulfilled in Jesus, God on earth. Beautiful feet, who carried the one who brought us life. May He, working in us, provide those beautiful feet for others.