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Sermon Notes

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Awake O Zion and Celebrate: Your God Reigns!

Isaiah 52:1-12

Main Idea: Zion, the City of the Living God (Jerusalem) is commanded to awake and throw off the degradation of her defilement by the unclean. The message of God's sovereign rule over the nations brings the joy of Zion's salvation by the mighty and holy arm of God. Purified from sin, the people of Zion can now leave Babylon and return home. The ultimate fulfillment of this chapter is in the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth and in the call for God's people to live holy lives free from defilement.

The City of Man vs. the City of God... Augustine first highlighted this distinction in his incredible work entitled "The City of God" written in the wake of the shocking fall of Rome in AD 410 to Alaric and the Goths... Rome was called "The Eternal City," and many thought that, with the sack of Rome, the end of the world was imminent. Augustine penned "The City of God" to argue that there have always been two cities developing and growing in Redemptive History – the City of Man and the City of God. The City of Man represents human empires, rising as a result of the lust of worldly conquerors... Babylon is a symbol of this in the Bible

The City of God is the place where God and man dwell together in perfect fellowship – the heavenly city of light and purity and holiness.

In the Scripture, the word "Zion" shows an amazing connection between an earthly city and the heavenly perfection that is developing and is yet to come.

"Zion" is the focus of Isaiah 52, as it has been a number of times already in Isaiah and will be again. It is a potent image in the Old Testament, mentioned 158 times... especially in Isaiah and Psalms... but only 7 times in the New Testament, with four of the seven being OT quotes.

In its simplest sense, Zion is Jerusalem... the Jebusite city David conquered in 2 Samuel 5:7. It was immediately also named "The City of David". "Mount Zion" also represented the same thing – the earthly city of Jerusalem.

However, when David brought the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem, it was the fulfillment of the command God had given to Moses concerning a dwelling place where the glory of God would reside... where God would dwell in active fellowship with His people:

Deuteronomy 12:4-7 You must not worship the LORD your God in their way. ⁵ But you are to seek the place the LORD your God will choose from among all your tribes to put his Name there for his dwelling. To that place you must go; ⁶ there bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks. ⁷ There, in the presence of the LORD your God, you and your families shall eat and shall rejoice

Throughout Psalms and Isaiah especially, Zion again and again refers to the literal city of Jerusalem... but occasionally, there are hints that Zion is also a heavenly place where God dwells with His holy angels and rules the world

Psalm 99:1-2 The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake. ² Great is the LORD in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations.

The dwelling of God with His people in the OT is symbolized by the GLORY CLOUD that filled the temple when Solomon dedicated it. God leaving Jerusalem because of her sins is symbolized in Ezekiel by the glory cloud leaving Jerusalem (Ezekiel 10). In the prophetic vision of Isaiah, Zion becomes an ideal – the city where God will dwell with His people and rule the heavens and earth.

In the New Testament, Zion becomes the “Jerusalem that is above”... the place where God has His throne, surrounded by redeemed people who have died and are WAITING FOR THE RESURRECTION:

Galatians 4:25-26 Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶ But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.

The Jerusalem that is BELOW (the literal city of Jerusalem) is no longer “Zion” in the New Testament; Zion has become the city of God in heaven... the Jerusalem that is ABOVE... being built little by little as more and more people come to Christ

Hebrews 12 has the same idea... a physical city that is BELOW and can be touched (represented by Mt. Sinai) and a spiritual city that is ABOVE and cannot be touched, but is spiritual:

Hebrews 12:18 You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm...

Hebrews 12:22-24 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³ to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant...

Ultimately, the consummation of Zion is in the New Jerusalem... which, when it is all prepared and purified and dressed for a wedding day will DESCEND from heaven to earth and there God will dwell forever with His people – a perfect union between heaven and earth

Revelation 21:1-4 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Zion below = Zion above; the place where God puts His name, where He has His throne, where He dwells with His people

Now... in Isaiah 52 and Isaiah 54, we will have this image... and the idea of Zion, the holy bride, lifted up from the dust and degradation of sin into holy readiness for a wedding day is a powerful theme... we'll come to it again and again in Isaiah 60-66... Zion made beautiful, radiant, made ready, beautified by the streaming of the nations... the glory of the nations streaming in through her gates, making her radiant and ready for her wedding day

The restoration of the Jews to the physical city of Jerusalem is a PROPHETIC PICTURE of the true Jerusalem being built... it is like the animal sacrificial system... a temporary physical prophecy whose perfection is yet to come.

Now... in Isaiah 52, the idea is of Zion a city DEFILED, DESPISED, REJECTED... sitting in the filth of sin and in the dusty rubble of judgment from God called on to RISE UP and BE CLEANSSED and BE EXALTED... the time of judgment is over, the time of glory is at hand

This rising up and cleansing is a picture of the redemption worked by God through Jesus' death and resurrection... and consummated by the final perfection of the church in the New Jerusalem

I. God Exalts Zion from the Dust of Exile (vs. 1-6)

A. Zion Awakened and Clothed with Holy Garments (vs. 1)

Isaiah 52:1 Awake, awake, O Zion, clothe yourself with strength. Put on your garments of splendor, O Jerusalem, the holy city. The uncircumcised and defiled will not enter you again.

1. Zion, Jerusalem, the holy city is pictured as ASLEEP... or like it is dead, in judgment, defiled by unholy men
2. God calls on Zion to AWAKE... he repeats it AWAKE, AWAKE!!!
3. Like Jesus calling to Lazarus to “Come forth!” to be alive and come out of the tomb
4. Defiled by uncircumcised, unholy Babylonian soldiers, who ran through the city with torches, and took axes into the Holy of Holies and stripped it of gold and chopped its carved paneled walls with axes and turned that precious, aromatic wood into kindling—fuel for the fire!!
5. Now the time of defilement is OVER!
6. Zion, Jerusalem, the Holy City is called on to clothe herself with strength and garments of SPLENDOR
7. God makes a promise that the uncircumcised and defiled will never enter her again
 - a. The immediate peace of Jerusalem under Cyrus the Great, and the decree that the city and the temple be rebuilt was a mere foretaste of this prophecy
 - b. Frankly, that decree itself was contested every step of the way, and Nehemiah had to build the wall with a sword in one hand and a trowel in the other
 - c. Ezra rebuilt the temple, but its glory was greatly diminished compared to Solomon’s temple
 - d. AND after the Greeks conquered the Persian empire, later Greek rulers defiled the temple with extreme defilements... Antiochus Epiphanes defiled the Holy of Holies with pig’s blood in 167 BC. The account for this is in the extra-biblical book 2 Maccabees 6.

Isaiah 52:1 Put on your garments of splendor, O Jerusalem, the holy city. The uncircumcised and defiled will not enter you again.

- e. Given that, six centuries later, the Roman army under Titus in AD 70... behaving exactly as the Babylonians did... Josephus describes in detail the burning of the temple and its plundering and its total destruction

Isaiah 52:1 Put on your garments of splendor, O Jerusalem, the holy city. The uncircumcised and defiled will not enter you again.

- f. SO this prophecy must be speaking ultimately of the New Jerusalem:

Revelation 21:25-27 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶ The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. ²⁷ Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

8. Isaiah is saying that there will come a day when the City of Zion will be completely free from all enemies, and completely glorious!!! Radiant in holiness!!
9. That day has not come yet, but it is coming!!
10. The rebuilding of the literal city of Jerusalem under Ezra and Nehemiah was a mere foretaste of the future glory of the New Jerusalem

B. Zion Arises from Bondage and Sits Enthroned (vs. 2)

Isaiah 52:2 Shake off your dust; rise up, sit enthroned, O Jerusalem. Free yourself from the chains on your neck, O captive Daughter of Zion.

1. Jerusalem is pictured as dusty and enslaved... here, God calls on her to rise up gloriously and SIT ENTHRONED
2. Free from all chains of captivity
3. Once again, the immediate fulfillment of the exiles leaving Babylon and repopulating Jerusalem is only a dim prophecy... acted out, but not complete... for one thing, the captive Daughter of Zion could not SIT ENTHRONED in Jerusalem while it had to ask permission from Gentile Kings like Cyrus and Xerxes, Alexander and Antiochus, Caesar Augustus and Tiberius
4. The true, final enthronement of Zion is in heaven:

Revelation 3:21 To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Revelation 4:4 *Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.*

2 Timothy 2:11-12 *Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; ¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him.*

C. Zion Redeemed to Know the Lord (vs. 3-6)

Isaiah 52:3-6 *For this is what the LORD says: "You were sold for nothing, and without money you will be redeemed." ⁴ For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "At first my people went down to Egypt to live; lately, Assyria has oppressed them. ⁵ "And now what do I have here?" declares the LORD. "For my people have been taken away for nothing, and those who rule them mock," declares the LORD. "And all day long my name is constantly blasphemed. ⁶ Therefore my people will know my name; therefore in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it. Yes, it is I."*

1. God speaks to CAPTIVE ZION... He says that she was "sold for nothing"... she gave herself in enslavement to other masters, to foreign gods who had no authority or existence... and God judged her by sending her into exile
2. Isaiah recounts Israel's history of BONDAGE: at first, in Egypt; lately in exile to Assyria and Babylon
3. This exile of God's chosen people has resulted in her captors MOCKING him and blaspheming His holy name! If God had not redeemed her, His name would have been defamed
4. BUT without money she will be redeemed!! God doesn't owe her new masters ANYTHING!! Without money God will redeem her... and we all know HOW:

1 Peter 1:18-19 *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

5. At the end of this chapter and into the next, we will look directly at the redemption Jesus worked by His death:

Isaiah 52:15 *so will he sprinkle many nations*

Isaiah 53:5 *But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.*

6. The end result of this redemption without money will be that Zion will know that it is the Lord who foretold it and He alone has done it

7. The end result of Zion's redemption is that she shall KNOW THE LORD

II. Beautiful Feet Bring Joyful News: "Your God Reigns!" (vs. 7-12)

A. Beautiful Feet of Messengers (vs. 7)

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!"

1. The image here is of messengers who travel a great distance and breathlessly bring an awesome message TO ZION

2. They travel over MOUNTAINS to bring the message! Willing to travel over dangerous and difficult roads to bring it to ZION!!

3. So the destination of the messengers is ZION ITSELF

a. How do we understand this?

b. If Zion is the physical city of Jerusalem, it could be that the scraggly remnant there, the humble, poor people of the land are being told "Babylon has fallen, has fallen! All her images are on the ground and defiled! God has triumphed! Exiles will soon be coming home!!!"

c. If Zion is the spiritual city, the idea is of the elect people of God, scattered throughout the nations of the world, being told of the triumph of Jesus Christ over Satan's dark kingdom, over sin, over death...

d. Paul actually quotes this to speak of the missionary endeavor of the church

Romans 10:12-15 there is no difference between Jew and Gentile-- the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 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? ¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

So, BOTH Jew and Gentile are "Zion" here in Romans 10, IF THEY RECEIVE THE MESSAGE BY FAITH!!!

As missionaries travel over the sea in ships to the islands of the South Pacific, or through the lofty mountain passes to get to remote tribes in Nepal or Tibet... or even as a college student sees another student sitting alone in

the cafeteria and uses his/her beautiful feet to walk 35 feet across the room to sit down and have a spiritual conversation

We must make the initiative! The message must MOVE OUT, we must do the walking and the talking

4. What does this mean “How beautiful are the FEET of those who bring good news?”
 - a. Feet are dirty and repulsive; slaves don’t wash their master’s feet, but Jesus showed His humility by doing it; John the Baptist showed how much greater Jesus was than him by saying “I am not worthy to untie his sandals!” Mary Magdalene showed her repentance by washing Jesus’ feet with her tears and drying them with her hair
 - b. SO... if ever the dirty FEET are seen to be beautiful, how joyful must the people be to hear this GOOD NEWS!!

B. The Good News: Peace, Goodness, Salvation Because God Reigns (vs. 7)

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!"

1. Good news! Peace!! Salvation!!! Your God reigns!!!!
2. This is immediately fulfilled by the fall of Babylon and the decree of Cyrus that the exiles can return
3. BUT even more in the triumph of Jesus Christ over Satan, sin, death, the grave and hell!!! The real fulfillment of this is the GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST
 - a. That God sent His Son into the world to deliver captives from Satan’s kingdom of sin
 - b. That Jesus lived a sinless life and a supernatural life
 - c. That Jesus died an atoning death on the cross... shedding His blood for our sins
 - d. That Jesus destroyed Satan by His death and resurrection, and is setting captives free now by the gospel message
 - e. That if captive sinners merely hear this GOOD NEWS with faith, they will be set free from sin and become children of God, and God will be forever AT PEACE with them... they will not be condemned but will be saved forever

f. That all of this is a powerful display of God's SOVEREIGN RULE

C. The News Produces Shouts of Joy (vs. 8-9)

Isaiah 52:8-9 Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. ⁹ Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

D. The Salvation Displays God's Power (vs. 10)

Isaiah 52:10 The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

1. The Gospel shows God's immeasurable power... power over Satan, power over sin and justice... He has the RIGHT to save sinners and the POWER to transform them
2. God is LAYING BARE His holy arm at the cross of Christ... it is REAL POWER

1 Corinthians 1:23-25 we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

E. Therefore: Depart in Holiness and Journey Safely to Zion (vs. 11-12)

Isaiah 52:11-12 Depart, depart, go out from there! Touch no unclean thing! Come out from it and be pure, you who carry the vessels of the LORD. ¹² But you will not leave in haste or go in flight; for the LORD will go before you, the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

1. We've seen again and again the danger of "Babylon"... the world system, the idols, the corruption, the allure of its wealth and power
2. God calls on His redeemed people to leave Babylon and carry the vessels of the Lord back to His temple

Daniel 1:1-2 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ² And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

Daniel 5:1-4 King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them. ² ¶ While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave

orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them. ³ So they brought in the gold goblets that had been taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them. ⁴ As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone.

Ezra 1:7-11 Moreover, King Cyrus brought out the articles belonging to the temple of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and had placed in the temple of his god. ⁸ Cyrus king of Persia had them brought by Mithredath the treasurer, who counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah. ⁹ This was the inventory: gold dishes 30 silver dishes 1,000 silver pans 29 ¹⁰ gold bowls 30 matching silver bowls 410 other articles 1,000 ¹¹ In all, there were 5,400 articles of gold and of silver. Sheshbazzar brought all these along when the exiles came up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

These sacred vessels were symbols of God's holy religion on earth; the Old Covenant was still in force, and the carrying of these temple vessels was in a clear way a vindication of God's power over the gods of Babylon

3. God says He will go before them and be their rear guard
 - a. Just like the pillar of cloud and fire during the Exodus... God would protect His journeying people from all their enemies
 - b. For this very reason, Ezra did not want to ask Cyrus for military protection on the journey back to Jerusalem

Ezra 8:21-23 There, by the Ahava Canal, I proclaimed a fast, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, with all our possessions. ²² I was ashamed to ask the king for soldiers and horsemen to protect us from enemies on the road, because we had told the king, "The gracious hand of our God is on everyone who looks to him, but his great anger is against all who forsake him." ²³ So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer.

4. Spiritual fulfillment for US in Christ:
 - a. For the church, this specifically refers to holiness... purity... separation from evil

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ¹⁵ What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the

living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." ¹⁷ "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." ¹⁸ "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Revelation 18:4-5 Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues; ⁵ for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes."

- b. Also God's power to shelter us from all harm and temptations, and do us only good until we finish our journey home... God goes before us to pave the way in sanctification, and He is our rear guard... nothing can hurt us... everything is filtered

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

III. Applications

A. Delight in the Future of Zion

1. There will be a city of God and man that will join heaven and earth in perfect unity
2. The New Jerusalem WILL DESCEND like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband
3. It will be radiantly glorious and will be totally safe and secure
4. Nothing impure or unholy will ever enter it again
5. The residents of that Holy City will be glorious and perfect
6. The city itself will be populated by elect people from every nation and tribe and language of earth... they will have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus, raised up out of the filth and dust of sin, cleansed and sat on glorious thrones
7. The enemies of God will be removed FOREVER!
8. Look forward to that day... the day of the perfection of ZION... look forward to seeing God face to face as He sits on His throne

9. Look forward to that day as Peter told you to:

2 Peter 3:11-14 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. ¹⁴ ¶ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

10. Internal journey of HOLINESS...

- a. Heed the warning to COME OUT from Babylon
- b. Ask God to purify you from the idols of this age... to cleanse you from living for the blessings of earth... from living for your stomach and your eyes, your appetites and passions...
- c. Ask God to purify your perspective on the unbelievers of this age... to not be unequally yoked with them... for Christians not to marry non-Christians; but more than that, to not be in covenant relations with non-Christians
- d. To understand that this world system, set up and dominated by Satan, the god of this age, is NO FRIEND to your faith... to “Come out” from the Babylon that surrounds us every day and live separate and holy lives
- e. To look forward with longing to the day when there will be no more sin, no more temptations
- f. To yearn to be as holy as you can be... to fight the good fight of purity in your minds and lifestyles... to be holy in what you watch on your computers and what you do with your bodies

11. External journey: MISSIONS!! “Look forward to the Day of God and SPEED ITS COMING!!!”

- a. Paul quoted this chapter to show the need for missionaries to take the Good News of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth
- b. There is an irresistible logic to his words:

Romans 10:12-15 there is no difference between Jew and Gentile-- the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 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?

¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

- c. The sense of Paul's quotation is the JOY we will bring to formerly captive people... people held in slavery to their fear of death

Ilus. "Ee-Taow"... missionaries to the Moak people of Papua New Guinea... the Mouk were living in abject fear of death and of demonic powers; New Tribes Missionaries Mark and Gloria Zook went and lived among them for years, patiently explained the whole story of Creation, Fall, and God's unfolding story of redemption, with a strong emphasis on the animal sacrificial system... when they got to the account of Jesus' crucifixion, the people were absolutely stunned and shocked.. they'd not seen it coming; but when Mark Zook explained how Christ's death was the fulfillment of God's sacrificial system, the way by which our sins are finally atoned for, and when he proclaimed the resurrection of Christ from the dead in triumph, the people GOT IT... THEY UNDERSTOOD AT LAST the GOOD NEWS... individuals began calling out "Ee-Taow" ("It's true!!) and shouting out in joy that they believed... an astonishing revival broke out and the entire village cascaded into exclamations of faith in Christ and joyful celebration; finally they lifted the Zooks up with their hands and with tears coming down their faces shouted for ALMOST TWO HOURS their joy in salvation

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!"

- d. Who wouldn't want to be involved in something like that?!
- e. So God wants us to grow out of our worldliness and live for being messengers
- f. And again, it can involve just crossing the street to a neighbor's home!!
- g. It also involves us SUPPORTING those who are going... MONEY... LOTTIE MOON... Great Commission Fund YEAR ROUND!!

B. Come to Christ...

1. What good would it be for me to exhort people to be missionaries to the distant parts of the earth and forget to proclaim the good news to any that are lost right here in this room?!
2. God has sent His Son... TRUST IN HIM!
3. Today is the Day of Salvation... believe in Him!

C. Next Week... We Begin the Marvelous Journey of Isaiah 53 (which starts at Isaiah 52:13-15... the single greatest prophecy of Christ in the Old Testament!)

1. In that chapter, we will have plainly explained how Christ redeems His sinful people and sets them in peace and joy in heaven!
2. Don't miss it!
3. Invite your friends to come!