

A Messenger of Good News

Imagine expecting something for years without having received what your heart really longed for. Then, one day, you receive it. Your heart leaps for joy. Your downcast spirit is suddenly revived. Everyone knows what you have been longing for and have felt your pain and anguish of not having received it. But suddenly – good news! What do you do with it? Keep it to yourself? Absolutely not! You can't wait to rush out and tell everyone you know about your good news. Good news is always shared. It's never kept to yourself. On the contrary when we receive bad news the last thing we feel like doing is telling others about it. The question you need to ask yourself is if the Gospel is good news to you. If

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 Messenger of Good News

- Daniel Sinclair paints the picture of a messenger running over mountains to declare the liberation of Israel from Babylon and their freedom to return to live at peace in Jerusalem. They can start working towards the restoration of the ruins of the city that was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar. He joyfully endured the hardships of the mountains and the blisters on his feet to bring such good news to the people.
- Feet are used for moving a person from one place to another. It's an indication the bearer of good news would move from wherever they are to the place where the good news needs to be taken to.
- Paul refers to the feet being shod with the Gospel of peace in Ephesians 6: 15
 - Your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.
- The intention was never that the Gospel – the good news – be for those only around us in our immediate vicinity, but for all who are far off as well.
- Nowadays we have people who love sitting on the side-lines giving a running commentary on how things should be done, but won't lift a finger to do anything themselves.
 - Such a person hasn't really believed that the Gospel is good news!
- Not only is the messenger of good news willing to move from one place to another with this good news, he's willing to take risks to get it to where it needs to go.
 - In the time of Isaiah crossing mountains would be a perilous journey. Not only from the heights and the rough terrain, but from bandits and wild animals.
 - Taking the good news was a risk.
 - Even today we need to leave our comfort zones to take risks to take this good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who need to hear it.
- Jesus was a risk taker. He came to his own and his own didn't know him.
 - Yes, sometimes things do work out as badly as we anticipated regardless of what the positive confessionists say.
 - Jesus took the risk of leaving his heavenly comforts and security knowing that he was going to be persecuted and die on a cross. He was the ultimate bearer of good news as He himself was, is and always will be the good news.
 - We don't become bearers of the Good News for what we get out of it, but for what others will gain from it.
- The story of the four lepers who found food in the deserted Aramean army camp when Jerusalem was under siege and everyone was starving. (2 Kings 7)
 - 2 Kings 7: 9 Then they said to each other, "What we're doing is not right. This is a day of good news and we are keeping it to ourselves."

2) The Message of Good News

- The messenger proclaims peace.
- It's not a superficial peace with peace agreements and a ceasing of communal strife.
- The message of peace is one of peace with God. A removal of the wall of hostility between us and God through the cross of Jesus Christ.
 - It's a reconciliation with God so that we're no longer enemies of God, but His children.
 - We live in the assurance of His protection, provision, love, care and hope as His children that we never had before.
 - We have a peace of heart and mind that surpasses all understanding because it's rooted in a sure hope in the Rock that is higher than us. It's not a peace that's based on a vague hopefulness.
- The messenger brings a message of salvation.
- We have a message of salvation because we have a Saviour who died for our sins and the sins of the world.
 - 1 John 2: 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.
 - The message is this: Your sins have been atoned for. Believe it to receive it. It has been done. You don't have to work for your salvation anymore. You don't have to try and earn God's approval anymore. It is finished. The work on your behalf has been done.
- The problem doesn't lie with God but with the unbelief of the many.
 - It's like a prisoner having been granted a full pardon by the state. The prison warden is the bearer of the good news and unlocks his prison cell and tells him that he's received a pardon. He can walk out of prison a free man. If he believes the warden he'll confidently pick up his belongings and walk out a free man. If he doesn't believe the warden he might just sit in his prison cell in unbelief although the door has been unlocked.
 - We have a message of salvation of pardon for the world. Will we faithfully deliver it so that the people of this world can know that they have received a full pardon and walk out into the freedom of Christ?

3) The God of Good News

- There wouldn't be good news and messengers of good news if we didn't serve a God of God news.
- God is the initiator of our salvation. He thought of saving us before we even knew that we needed saving.
- He sent His only Son to die on a cross while we were still far from Him and had no intention of serving or worshipping Him.
- Salvation isn't primarily about us. It's about Him.
- It brings us under the rule and reign of God so that we can exclaim: Our God reigns!
- To the worldly mind this may seem like moving from a life of servitude in the kingdom of darkness to a life of servitude in the kingdom of light.
 - The big difference is that in the kingdom of darkness the thief steals, kills and destroys, whereas in the kingdom of light the King gives us life in abundance.
 - He's a king who rules in righteousness, love and compassion.
 - It's to our benefit to submit to His absolute Lordship over our lives as He knows what's best for us.
- The message of salvation is a message to be free from sin to come under the Lordship of Christ. He's our Saviour to be our Lord.
 - Ephesians 1: 7 – 10 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment —to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.