

SHOES ON HOLY GROUND

Exodus 3:5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

For forty years Moses had put on his shoes and decided where he would go. He had killed the Egyptian soldier and fled to Midian. Now, for the first time in his life, he was commanded to remove his shoes because he stood on holy ground. I don't know where you all have been before coming here to Paris, but would you kindly allow me to ask you to come forward to this pulpit, this mountain of God, and remove your shoes for the duration of this message in the spirit of Moses? In doing so we will send the Lord Jesus the message that we respect his holiness and are ready to submit to his will. The desert was hot, and one cannot walk around on bare feet. In addition, the desert floor was creeping with dangerous creatures such as snakes and scorpions. Furthermore, Moses would be unable to tend to the sheep of his father-in-law, Jethro, without shoes. One becomes very vulnerable without shoes in such an inhospitable environment. Nevertheless, God demands the removal of shoes. In repentance we show God that we have no other defence other than God. There is no plan B. We remove our shoes before the holy God so he can give us power to tread on serpents and scorpions. "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Luke 10:19).

In other words, the removal of shoes signifies the suspension of all earthly activities because God must be first.

Deut 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

Deut 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Deut 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

We have removed our shoes today before God to testify that he is first in our lives. Right now, in Paris, we testify through this gesture of removing shoes that we have suspended all earthly activities to hear from God. Once the shoes are removed, revelation follows. Once Moses removed his shoes, God declared his identity and that of Moses. "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you" (Exodus 3:14). We are in the right place and in the right spirit to receive the revelation of who Jesus is today – he is none other than the Father himself. "Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip?

he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?
(John 14:9).

When God commands us to remove our shoes, know it is time for deliverance also. “And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows” (Exodus 3:7). Let us believe together today that the Lord has seen our prayers and tears for Europe – let the removal of our shoes be a prayer to the Lord that the time has come for revival and deliverance in Europe. Hallelujah! It is only when we surrender like Moses that God can work effectively. Let us not forget that Moses was barefoot throughout the exchange with God on Mount Sinai. He did not feel he was the man for the job, suggested other candidates, such as Aaron, which showed he was unaware of the power of God. Today, too, we will wrestle with God in prayer – allow him to remove our doubts, confusions and feelings of inadequacy while we are barefoot before him. It was while Moses was barefoot that God gave him the staff which would later drown Pharaoh and his army. “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong” (2 Cor 12:10). It was in his weakness, barefoot, that Moses discovered the strength and power of God. Let us hasten to be weak before the Lord Jesus Christ! I would rather that the Lord removed my shoes than some other individual. What benefit is it if the head be of gold, as in the image of Nebuchadnezzar, but the feet iron mixed with clay?

Deut 25:9 *Then shall his brother's wife come unto him in the presence of the elders, and loose his shoe from off his foot, and spit in his face, and shall answer and say, So shall it be done*

Deut 25:10 *And his name shall be called in Israel, The house of him that hath his shoe loosed.*

Once this message is finished, we will pray for our shoes that we raise up seed for the Lord Jesus Christ. To raise up seed for us today is to witness to others about the Lord Jesus Christ. “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace” (Ephesians 6:14,15). You see, the man who refused to raise up seed for his brother was selfish because he did not understand that God was thinking of the nation of Israel collectively, not just one man and one family. Moses, too, was being selfish – his family were not slaves in Midian while the Israelites suffered as slaves in Egypt. Our shoes will be blessed just as Moses' shoes were blessed. Once this message is over, we will stand up and read this scripture together after

which we will put on our shoes which, we have faith, will not be the same again: “Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say” (Exodus 4:12).

Let us consider more carefully what the Apostle means when he tells the Ephesians “And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace” (Eph 6:15). Our shoes are made from the Gospel of peace. The Gospel is made of the identity of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the one God, Jehovah, manifested in flesh (I Tim 3:16); in him dwells the fulness of the Godhead bodily (Col 2:9). The shoes of the Christian are purchased with the blood of Jesus. Our shoes are not like other people’s shoes. Moses’ shoes would last for forty years because God commanded him to go. The last thing we put on before we leave the house is shoes. We must ensure we have obeyed Acts 2:38 before we venture to put on our spiritual shoes and witness for the Lord. “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38). Is there someone who has not been baptized in Jesus’ name please decide to do so before you punt on your shoes. For the rest of you, let me conclude with a scripture from Isaiah.

Isaiah 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

Isn’t it interesting that Isaiah mentions the mountains? The size of mountains should dwarf the size of our feet and yet Isaiah sees the feet very clearly and extols their beauty. When you put on your shoes and leave this place believe that you will walk on mountains in Jesus’ name. It was on *Mount Sinai* that Moses’s feet were blessed by God. Christians will climb mountains (plural) after we put on the Gospel shoes. Why? Because we publish salvation in Jesus’ name! Do you know why the shoes of the children of Israel were unaffected by the forces of time and the desert? “And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot” (Deut 29:5). Simply because their shoes represent the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Gospel is eternal and does not change; it cannot be affected by the wear and tear of this world. This is the Gospel we travel with, saints of God.

I will kindly ask the ministers to come forward and pray for the shoes at the altar. Let us read the scripture together: “Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say” (Exodus 4:12). Go in Jesus name!