



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

A Whole New You Series, Lesson 26

Lesson Title: New Feet

Take Home Point: God sends you to share his message with others.

Warm-Up:

Imagine you have always suffered from poor vision – even with glasses or contacts everything is fuzzy during the day and you can hardly see at night. You can't drive because you can't read the signs, nor can you read a book or enjoy visual delights. Then a relative tells you of someone who can help you with a new procedure. Desperate, you take a chance and have it done. The results are miraculous! You can see clearly for the first time, and it is wonderful! The world is a different place, full of color and clarity; you can now read the signs along the road to lead you in the right direction. Now also imagine you have family and friends who suffer from the same malady. Do you tell them about your doctor and the procedure, or keep it to yourself? What do you think?!?

Read: Isaiah 52:7, Matthew 28:19-20 Romans 10:15

Observation (What happened?):

According to Isaiah, what is the beautiful message that is sent?

What specific verbs does Jesus use as direction in the last two verses of Matthew?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Jesus emphasized going to all nations?

What did Jesus mean when he said he would be with us to the end of the age?

Insight:

Consider the words of Jesus in Matthew 28 in light of the church throughout the centuries:

"Go and build buildings in all nations." That wouldn't do any good without a message would it?

"Go and be judgmental of those who don't meet your standards in all nations." Definitely not God's way, is it?

"Go and segregate yourselves from the wicked sinners around you in all nations." How does that bring Christ to the world?

"Go and establish lots of rules for people so they feel like failures when they can't follow them in all nations." Leaves God's grace out of the picture, doesn't it?

"Go, persecute and kill those who refuse to follow your specific beliefs in all nations." How awful; how common.

These all sound silly and kind of pathetic, don't they? But how many times is that the way it is?

Application (What does it mean to me?):

With whom are you sharing God's message? How?

Thank God right now for the one(s) who shared his message with you.