**Sermon Notes – Sunday 17th July**

**‘Church without Walls’**

* What comes to mind when you think of this phrase, ‘A Church without walls’?
* Do you have a story to tell of how God has been at work ‘out there’ in your everyday life?

**Read Acts 3:1-10**

This is a very familiar story. Notice how it starts, ‘One day’. You never know how one day may be suddenly different than any other day. On this ‘one day’ God was about to do something miraculous that was to cause this new ‘movement’ to grow in extraordinary ways through a simple act of kindness.

* Has there been an occasion when you have been interrupted in your day to respond with a simple act of kindness? What was it? How did it make you feel? Was there an outcome to that situation?
* This event happened just after Pentecost and the coming of the Spirit upon the disciples (Acts 2). Where can you see the Spirit at work in this event?
* Recall the occasion when King David welcomed Mephibosheth (the son of Jonathan) to dine at his table as an opportunity to extend kindness (2 Samuel 9:1-13). What is David suggesting by associating his act of kindness with that of God’s (v3)?
* What does that suggest to you about whenever you express kindness to someone else?
* What was the impact on the early church of this simple act of kindness (Acts 4:4)?
* How can you be more open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to respond with kindness when an opportunity is presented to you?
* How easily do you receive the kindness of others?

As a group may we be a Church **‘without walls’** available and open to respond to God’s call, day by day, with simple acts of kindness.

**Lectio 365 Closing Prayer**.

‘Father, help me to live this day to the full, being true to you in every way.

Jesus, help me to give myself a way to others, ***being kind to everyone I meet.***

Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say. Amen’

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