

“Acts of Kindness”

Sunday, May 3, 2009

Sermon Notes:

day 1: (Acts 4: 5-12) Peter and John are hauled in before the powerful Sanhedrin after healing the crippled beggar. The powers that be ordered them to give some sort of explanation for their behavior. In Peter’s response, he declares something powerful. He declares in vv. 8-10, that the reason they healed the man was based in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Something in Peter and John changed when Jesus walked out of the grave. There was a new compassion, a new sensitivity and a new power! Have you ever thought about the effect that the resurrection has on your relationships?

day 2: (Psalm 23) So often I read this Psalm and think of how the Lord takes care of me. That is certainly the intent of the passage. But we must always remember our goal of Christ-likeness. In this light, reread the Psalm and think of yourself being a “shepherd” to someone in need. Can you take care of someone else’s needs? Can you walk with them through the valley? Can you comfort someone? I think you can and should do all of these things...and so should I.

day 3: (I John 3: 16-24) This is such an explicit reference. How are we to love? As Jesus did. How did Jesus love? Selflessly, sacrificially, and unconditionally. These are the marks of a maturing Christian. How is your love? Do the words above describe you? How can your love improve? What does Jesus’ example have to say to us about all this?

day 4: (John 10: 11-18) Jesus is the good Shepherd who lays his life down for his sheep. Again in this passage, we have the example of Jesus’ death and resurrection. What does this say to us? As Jesus died for all of us, so we must love accordingly—with sacrifice and selflessness. As Jesus was resurrected, so we have the power available to love in this way. Without the resurrection and God’s empowering, loving as Jesus did is impossible. But as we allow the Holy Spirit to fill us and live through us, we can love as Jesus did. The death and resurrection of Jesus enables us to love others.

day 5: (I John 4: 7-21) It is impossible, according to the scriptures, to love God and hate our fellow humans. In fact, so clear is John in this text that he says if you hate others, you simply cannot love God. Wow! Got some growing to do? See any disparity between your life and this scripture? Pray about the connection between love for God and love for others. If you sincerely seek, God will help you grow.