

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday June 17, 2024 - Acts 3: 6

6 Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

Read Acts 3 for meditation and inspiration.



Someone Cares

Dear Lakesiders and friends,

"... and on the Sabbath He began to teach in the Synagogue; and many who heard Him were astonished" (Mark 6:2)

In today's Gospel Lesson, Jesus returns to Nazareth, His childhood home, for the first time since His public ministry began. His reputation has preceded Him. His fellow villagers have heard accounts of His revolutionary teachings and His astonishing miracles. Now, here He is, in the flesh, back home again, teaching in the local Synagogue. And the villagers "were astonished" when they hear Him. "Where did this man get all this?" they ask. "What are these miracles that are being worked through Him? What is this wisdom that has been granted Him?" But later they pushed him out! They wanted to be rid of Him.

Today many people feel just like that. They are expendable, even not wanted or needed.

One of the astonishing things about God is the way He continues to reveal Himself to us. The God who is the Source of our life and the only Source of our wholeness of life does not hold Himself aloof. In astonishing ways, He comes to us, again and again, to ignite our souls with the power of His infinite love as we strive in the Apostle Paul's words, "to walk in newness of life ... as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God" (Rom. 6:4, 1 Cor. 4:1).

During the pandemic, a spiritually troubled man turned to his pastor for counsel and

advice. After listening to the man at great length, the pastor asked him to describe what he felt was the most profound need in his life. The man replied, "During the past few weeks, we've been talking about what to do with the struggles in my life. You've tried to tell me that God loves me and I guess I need to see it in the flesh. I mean to some other person who cares about me and who helps me know that my life matters. I have felt desperately alone, isolated, trapped and abandoned. I know you say God cares and I believe that but I guess I need to experience it in the flesh."

Friends that is exactly what so many need and what Lakeside Presbyterian Church can and must offer. Reaching into someone's loneliness, despair, sense of loss and hopelessness and let them know that someone cares - that WE CARE!

Sharing faith and love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger