

INTRODUCTION: In our post-Easter series, we will be reflecting on what it means to be Jesus' witnesses in the world (Acts 1:8). Each one of us occupies very particular places and, because of that, we each have our own unique opportunities to offer love and service to those we interact with. We have a "Jerusalem," a place where God has called us to be present and attentive to what He is doing and to join Him in that work. We are, in some sense, all missionaries; we are all witnesses of God's good news for the world in and through Jesus.

CENTERING: Take a moment to center yourself for communion with God.

READING: Acts 2:1-12, 3:1-10

SCRIPTURE & SERMON REFLECTION:

- What is the significance of the Pentecost story to you personally?
- Describe a time when you sensed a leading from the Holy Spirit. How did you know it was the Spirit? What happened when you followed the nudge?
- What parts of the story in Acts 3:1-10 stood out to you?
- How do you cultivate an expectation for the Holy Spirit to speak "to or through you" as you go throughout your day?
- Respond to this statement from Henri Nouwen: "As followers of Jesus we can also allow our wounds to bring healing to others." How does that change your view of being a witness?
- A primary part of our calling as followers of Jesus is to bring healing to people. This is often where and how the Holy Spirit leads us. With that in mind, why was the healing in Acts 3 more than just a physical healing for the man?

BEING A WITNESS:

- In the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), some Bible scholars say a more accurate rendition of Jesus' command to "...go and make disciples of all nations..." is, "... as you go, make disciples of all nations..." Make a list of the "as you go" places that encompass your typical day (i.e. going to school or work, shopping at the store, etc.).
- In John 4:37-38, Jesus says "one sows and another reaps," when speaking about when and how people are ready to receive the Gospel. In other words, "as you go" throughout your day, you have the opportunity to be a conduit of the Holy Spirit, to be sowing (and possibly reaping) seeds of the Gospel in every interaction you encounter. Pray to be open to the Holy Spirit in all of your "as you go" moments.

PRAYER:

"Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit, so that we might be strengthened to go forth and witness to the Gospel in our everyday life through our words and actions. Amen."