

**21<sup>nd</sup> April,2024**

**Text: Acts 4:5-12**

**Theme: “We are Called for Loving Kindness”**

### **Introduction**

Mamie Adams always went to a branch post office in her town because the postal employees there were friendly. She went there to buy stamps just before Christmas. One other year, the lines were particularly long and Mamie Adams decided to Join in the queue. Someone in the queue pointed out that there was no need to wait in line because there was a stamp machine in the lobby. "I know," said Mamie, 'but the machine won't ask me about my arthritis." Friends, Kindness makes a person attractive. If you would win the world, melt it, do not hammer it.

### **Exegesis and Application**

When we back up to Chapter Three of the Acts of the Apostles, we see Peter and John under the influence of the spirit of God. We get to know the candor and commitment these young men had for the work of God. They sacrificed time and money to preach the gospel, heal the sick and, and perform unfathomable miracles. Word went out about these amazing men to the Chief priest in Jerusalem. Peter and John were captured by temple guards and Sadducees to appear before the council in Jerusalem led by Annas the Chief priest.

The two were put in the spotlight to explain themselves before the council. *“In whose name and power are you doing these things?”* This question seeks to cleverly enquire to establish the “tera fema” case against Peter and John doing so by telescopic scrutiny. **People of God**, I can assume that the Sanhedrin council members knew Peter and John very well as the disciples of Jesus Christ. And that they spent time moving to many places with Jesus Christ. However, this question seeks to establish the authority behind their actions. As a result, the council is interested in ending the influence of the name of Jesus Christ which was seen as the beginning of a new religion departing from Judaism.

**Friends**, Peter, and John defined the beginning of a new religion which later came to be known as Christianity. Filled with the spirit of God, John and Peter brought out the practical influence of the new religion. The two disciples put loving kindness at the heart of their actions towards those devested by various circumstances. **People of God**, Christ brings the desire to his disciples to show loving kindness to people in proximity.

Our responsibility is often tested to identify who is in our proximity when we have so much to ourselves. Peter and John identified the physically challenged around them and reached out with loving kindness. **Friends**, Loving Kindness reaches out rather than being asked to help. How are we moved as a church towards social justice? Are we asked or we rather

become intentional toward the needs of other people? A heart full of loving Kindness sees where vulnerability exists, and vulnerability always beacons for Social Justice.

The heart of Christ is constantly searching for the broken part of the world to be mended by people with a heart full of loving-kindness. We are all broken in some way and keep looking and searching for help from someone we never knew by the name that they exist. The Jews needed salvation but did not recognize Jesus Christ in their midst. Instead, they rejected and crucified him. Alas, the rejected stone became the chief cornerstone of our Christian faith. **Friends**, our help is not far from us even though we often think otherwise. Through the acts of loving-Kindness, Peter and John announced their ministry in Jerusalem.

## **Conclusion**

One day a Sunday school teacher asked her class the difference between kindness and loving kindness. One little girl said she knew the difference. She told the teacher that kindness is like when you ask your mother for some toast and she gives it to you, but loving kindness is when you ask your mother for some toast and she gives it to you with butter and jelly on it. Amen.

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