

## People of Hope and Power

Caroline told her story of how a lady invited her to Sunday school as a child. Many years later and she has worked for churches (both as a volunteer and paid), works for a Christian charity and her children are followers of Jesus.

She said, "One act of kindness can have repercussions through the generations".

***Do you have similar examples of a big impact that came from a small act of kindness?***

Read Luke 4:14-21

### **CONTEXT**

V16 – Jesus was in the synagogue as was His custom.

***How important it is to have a custom of meeting every week in person with your fellow people of God? Why?***

BEFORE: Just before this, Jesus was tempted in the wilderness. We were challenged as to how we view the wilderness. For Jesus it was a place of prayer and fasting and separation from other distractions. He returned full of the power of the Spirit.

***Jesus satisfies the soul. How does this compare to satisfaction we seek in food, Netflix, etc.?***

AFTER: He was rejected in Nazareth and then walked 27 miles to Capernaum where the next week there was the opposite response from the people. ← Same Jesus, same power at work but a radically different outcome.

***How should that affect how we act?***

### **CALLING**

To study His teachings and walk in His ways. Got to be doing, not just listening.

Disciple = apprentice ← watches the master and does it.

Jesus describes His calling by quoting from Isaiah 61 in v18-19. ***What 5 things are they? How do we do those things?***

Many people are feeling anxious due to current events in the world BUT we are to be a people of HOPE. We may be anxious, but we don't have to stay that way.

2 Corinthians 1:3 "...the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."

We are the hope of the world – if we don't bring hope, who will. We are His hand, feet and VOICE.

***How can we bring hope to the world around us?***

### **CO-OPERATION**

We can only do the above in a glorious partnership with the Holy Spirit.

What does it look like? Follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit for a wonderful adventure:

Caroline told 3 incidents from her life this year:

- 1) Praying for her neighbour who has breast cancer before her chemotherapy. (Felt peace)
- 2) Praying for a woman on crutches who was walking by the river. (After 2<sup>nd</sup> time, the pain went, and she didn't need crutches for walking).
- 3) Paying for a man's food in the supermarket. (Found out he down to his last £30).

***Could you do any of those things if God prompted you?***

The church is described using plural metaphors:

- Building – made from many bricks.
- Mighty Army – lots of soldiers.
- Body – made from many cells.

Don't over-analyse when God speaks. The word is hungry for what we have to offer but we haven't convinced ourselves of its value.

***What would be the impact of God's church if we all bravely follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit?***

### **COMPASSION**

Matthew 25:40 *"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*

If anyone is thinking about sponsoring a child, visit <https://www.compassionuk.org> or talk to Peter Straw from Jubilee who works for Compassion UK.