

BEING A DISCIPLE

- Where have you seen God at work in your life this week? (Share any brief examples and encouragements).
- Was there anything from Sunday's message which you found particularly inspiring or challenging?
- Was there anything else you particularly noticed?

Matthew 4:23 (NIVUK)

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and illness among the people.

Matthew 15:30-31 (NIVUK)

³⁰ Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them. ³¹ The people were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.

Acts 5:12-20 (NIVUK)

¹² The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. ¹³ No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. ¹⁵ As a result, people brought those who were ill into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. ¹⁶ Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing those who were ill and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.

Jesus calls his followers to do the same things he did. Not just to be good but to do good. You have been saved for a reason. 'We are', as Paul says in Ephesians 2:10, 'God's handiwork,' – his *poiema* (Gk.), or masterpiece, 'created in Christ Jesus to do **good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.' You have been made to make a difference. But Jesus went further than that. He promised also that 'whoever believes in me will do the **works** I have been doing, and they will do even **greater** things than these, because I am going to the Father.'

- *After Pentecost, the Spirit-empowered disciples began to do things that Jesus had been empowered by the Spirit to do. What might the Spirit empowering you to do?*
- *What do you think Jesus meant by 'greater things than these'?*
- *What needs do you see in your community that Jesus might be inviting you to meet?*
- *What might Jesus want to do through you?*
- *We pray 'Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.' But we can't just sit back and wait for God to do it all. What would your community look like if it was truly 'kingdom-shaped'? What would look different?*