

## Sermon Notes - Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September 'Hungry for God'

'The greatest concern facing the church today is not numerical decline, struggling finances, extremist Islam or aggressive secularisation. The greatest concern is lukewarm-ness,' says Malcolm Macdonald author of, 'Set me on Fire'. Would you agree? This was the accusation made of the church in Laodicea in Revelation 3:15. What do you think might characterise a 'luke warm' church? As a contrast what might a 'hot' church look like?

Read Acts 3:1-20. This event takes place after Jesus had ascended to his Father, after the disciples had been told to go and wait for the gift my Father promised and after the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. The disciples were full of the life of Jesus, full of his Spirit and attentive to His promptings as and when He might interrupt their day with a message or call.

- Share an occasion when you have acted on a thought which could have been a prompting from the Holy Spirit. What happened?

Acts 3:4 Peter acted on the prompt and received the blessing of being used by God.

- Have there been times when you have ignored the prompt and so possibly missed out on something that God wanted to do through you?

The healing didn't occur before he helped him up (v7). It happened as he helped him up. The 'helping up' was the demonstration of the faith of Peter and John, not the man crippled from birth.

- Do you have faith to believe Jesus can do the same thing today? Have you experienced it?
- Undertaken in a public place what was the impact on the people? (v9)
- What might be the reaction today in our secular society?

Peter doesn't soften his words of condemnation for the actions of the people that led to Jesus' crucifixion but uses the opportunity to bear witness to what God has done and declares that it is all part of God's purpose v17

Peter calls on the people to repent. No revival has ever happened without Christians coming face to face with a holy and pure God, exposing to them afresh their own wretched sinfulness and depravity. If we long for those 'times of refreshing' to transform our nation with revival fire, then it begins with deep repentance and conviction of sin amongst the people of God.

- How do we feel about this?
- Do we hunger for God to change the hearts of the people in our own community or are we content with the way things are?

Spend some time praying for God to create within you a hunger for Him.

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