**Sermon Notes – Sunday 18th July**

**‘A Vision for the Church – sharing our faith’**

**Read Luke 9:1-6**

1. What image or thought first comes to mind when you hear the word, ‘Evangelism’?
2. When you read about the disciples going out preaching and healing everywhere, how does that make you feel? Be honest!
3. Can you recall a time when you were able to share your faith openly and honestly?
4. How did it feel?

In St John’s Gospel chapters 3 & 4 we see Jesus having two conversations with strangers, one (Nicodemus) who comes to find him at night is curious to discover more. The other (the woman of Samaria) ventures out of town in the heat of the day to draw water from the well where Jesus has paused to rest on his journey. In both cases Jesus is open to engaging in a conversation.

1. Are you open to the possibility of entering into a conversation with a stranger? How relaxed would you feel about that?

Observe how in each case Jesus starts by stating what’s on offer:

To Nicodemus – ‘being born again’, to the woman of Samaria – the gift of ‘Living water’.

1. How is that offer received by each of these people?
2. What was it about the conversation with Jesus that compelled the woman to respond in such dramatic fashion (John 4:28,29)
3. Without knowing it she became an evangelist and the people responded v30, 39-42

**Response:** We are all different. Some of us find it easy to engage in conversation with strangers, some of us would run a mile from such a prospect. We relate to people in different ways. We are not all evangelists or gifted as such, but we can all be friendly and be open to the Holy Spirit guiding our conversations. So if the opportunity arises and we get that nudge (or as the evangelist J John describes it; ‘the quiver in the liver’!) then we can faithfully share our own story and journey of faith – how God has been with us in the hard times as well as the good. This is how we witness to others.

**Remember:** We all have a story to tell!

**Pray together** that we might be more open to being used by God, to share our own story of coming to faith in Jesus.