Date: February 9, 2025

Speaker: Pastor Tim McCardel

Message Series: "Acts In Action"

Three Loving Reminders:

1) "Joy is a settled assurance about God, a quiet confidence in God, and a determined choice to praise God." ~ Warren
2) "What we think determines how we act and how we act determines how we feel."
3) "You can't command a feeling but you can command a thought and an action."

2 Corinthians 10:5 *"...we take every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ."*

⇒ We all need to train ourselves to take thoughts captive with lots of practice. The more you replace your worried/fearful thoughts with what is true about God, the less fear and worry you'll experience.

2 Corinthians 5:15, 17, 18

"The Christian story provides us with such a set of lenses, not something for us to look at, but for us to look through". ~ *Newbigin*

Romans 12:1

1. Affirming, Encouraging Each Other

♦ A "Balcony Person"? ... A "Basement Person"?

Romans 12:15

Acts 2:32-37

⇒ Encouragers, Affirmers —"Balcony people" - do not believe who you were yesterday has to limit who you can be today or who you can be tomorrow.

Just Asking — "Who is someone you should be praying for and sharing your life with"?

2. Believing The Best

Acts 9:23-30

Just Asking Again: Who believed the best for you and how did this hope help set you free to become more of what God wanted you to be?

3. Embracing, Including Outsiders

Acts 11:19-26

Notice: How Barnabus's gift of encouragement is being developed and sharpened: "full of the Holy Spirit and strong in Faith…"

Some Final Asks:

1. Are you seeking God Himself to develop you and sharpen you for His glory?
2. Who is a person - a "not-yet Christian", you should be encouraging and affirming?

Encouragers:

1) Have God's vision and can't stand to see others fall short of God's goals.
2) Love you and love God too much to be silent and let you miss God's plan for your life.
3) Long for you to taste the fullness and goodness of God in your life.