Sermon 11th May 2025

This morning we continue our sermon series using the book of Acts. Over the past couple of weeks we have looked at Christians being witnesses to Jesus and how Christians explain their spiritual experiences. Today we are moving on to how Christians demonstrate the gospel.

Here in the two rivers mission community we have a mission action plan, which I’m sure you have seen a copy of on our church notice boards. It has a picture of a bus with its destination saying, *‘we are called by God to build a Christian community in each village, which will worship, pray, grow and reach out with the gospel’*. In another corner of this plan is a list of our values which includes; *love, faith, word and spirit, generosity and joy*.

 I believe that Christians demonstrate the gospel through both their actions and their words; showing the love and teachings of Jesus in their daily lives, and sharing those truths with others. This involves living out Christian values, actively serving others, and sharing the message of the gospel through personal testimonies, community engagement, and other forms of evangelism: We are all travelling on this journey together.

There are many ways in which we as Christians can demonstrate the Gospel such as;

**Loving and Serving Others:**

We are called to show love and care for others, following the example of Jesus, whether it's through acts of kindness, volunteering, or donating to charity.

**Living Justly and Ethically:**

This involves treating others with fairness, honesty, and respect, reflecting Christian values in all areas of our lives.

**Being a Community:**

Demonstrating the gospel requires being part of a supportive and loving community, where believers encourage and uplift one another.

**Sharing the Good News:**

This involves sharing personal testimonies about faith, inviting others to believe in Jesus, and engaging in conversations about spiritual matters.

Then we can demonstrate the Gospel through the Words we speak:

**Proclaiming the Gospel:**

Which involves sharing the message of Jesus, his sacrifice, and the good news of salvation with others.

**Telling Your Story:**

This can be a hard ask for some people but sharing your personal journey of faith can be a powerful way to inspire others.

**Praying and Seeking God's Guidance:**

As Christians we are encouraged to pray for opportunities to share the gospel and for God's guidance in our evangelistic efforts.

Gospel demonstration is serving others in the name of Christ, showing his love when we act upon what we say we believe about Christ. In the bible Christians are encouraged to be salt and light.  Salt, in this context, symbolizes preservation, flavouring, and a positive influence; while light represents illumination, guidance, and a shining example of God's love and truth. We live in a world that deeply needs that salt and light at this time.

Our reading from Acts tells the story of Dorcas, a disciple known for her good works and charity, who is raised from the dead by Peter after she becomes ill and dies. This passage highlights God's power, the importance of good deeds, and the ministry of the early church, particularly to the vulnerable.

Dorcas was a woman "full of good works and charity". She helped the poor and needy, demonstrating the practical nature of faith and the importance of putting love into action.

Dorcas's ministry focused on widows and the poor, highlighting God's particular care for the vulnerable and marginalized in society.

The raising of Dorcas leads to many people believing in the Lord, showing the power of God's actions to attract others to faith and the importance of demonstrating faith through service and acts of love.

The story provides hope that God is active and can work even in difficult circumstances. It also encourages believers to live lives of service and love, reflecting the character of Christ.

Like Dorcas our actions should demonstrate our faith and love for God and our neighbours. This story highlights the importance of living out our faith in practical ways.

This morning I would like to encourage us all to live lives of service and love, reflecting the character of Christ and the example of Dorcas. Let us identify areas where we can make a difference in our communities and pray for the opportunities to serve and share God's love with all.