**Thursday 4th June**

Acts 4:29-31

Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Peter and John had just be hauled in front of the authorities to explain themselves. What was their appalling crime? They had healed a lame man in the name of Jesus! They were ordered not to speak in the name of Jesus again and released. I love their response! They pray for boldness to continue speaking in the name of Jesus! They are compelled to continue sharing the Good News in word and in deeds of power. They have seen first hand what Jesus can do - the freedom, healing and life that he brings, and nothing is going to keep them quiet! After their courageous and sacrificial prayer, the Holy Spirit comes in such power that the building is shaken!

This boldness is another aspect of the Holy Spirit’s work. He gives us courage and conviction not to hold back in sharing Jesus. Our broken world needs an encounter with the risen Lord Jesus! That will happen chiefly through you - the church! Let’s pray for boldness and compassion and opportunity - the Good News of Jesus is Good News for everyone!

*Lord Jesus, we thank you for this story and we are challenged by it! Forgive us for the times when our fear of what people might think has prevented us from sharing you, even though we know from experience just how good you are. We pray that you would so fill us with the Holy Spirit that we become courageous to share you. Lord, we are living in a broken and hurting world that is in desperate need of Good News. Help us to see others as you do - help us to know the compassion you feel for each person who is lost without you. We pray too for an outbreak of signs and wonders in the Church, that we might proclaim Jesus in word and deed. Amen*