

## **“Unexpected Surprises”**

**Acts 3:1-11**

**Dr. John A. Wells**

Feeling like you are special is a wonderful experience. My wife makes me feel special a lot because she is very thoughtful. I also notice that there are a lot of thoughtful and caring people here in this church. I remember walking to work one day while I was stationed in Korea. On that same day, I noticed something in front of two sets of homes that was a visible reminder of caring to all those who passed. On the front door of one house, someone was made to feel very special because of a great birthday message in large bold letters stretched across the door. On the sidewalk, in front of another house, was a huge note written in chalk: WELCOME BACK HOME - THIS WAY. Another person in the neighborhood was made to feel very special, just because someone took a little extra time to express a message that says “you are special and meaningful in my life”.

The weekend before I wandered around Namdaemun Market to look for a particular kind of spice for cooking. I went into a Chinese restaurant to ask for help, but it appeared no one understood my request for assistance. It just so happened that an Australian gentleman was sitting there eating. He overheard what I was asking and offered to help. I discovered he had only been in Korea one day. He did not speak Korean, but spoke perfect Chinese, which the person in the restaurant understood perfectly. I was able to get good directions, and went about my adventure after thanking these kind and helpful people. My first response was to thank God for helping me by putting the right person in the right place at the right time. Instead of meeting with frustration, I met with kind assistance. I felt God did something special for me that day.

The Bible is full of examples of God making people feel very special along life’s journey. He does this through other people who are generally going about their business doing other things and with other plans in mind. We can find a lot of these stories in the book of Acts as well as in the Hebrew Scriptures. From our devotional reading today we discover a man who received some very extraordinary help while Peter and John were going about their daily routine. Talk about someone feeling really special!

God often interjects the unanticipated into our day, or alters our routine, to provide us the opportunity to do something kind or caring for someone that will make them feel special or bring about some kind of healing. Take a look around and notice the acts of kindness that swirl around us daily. Think about those things that God helps you with during the course of the day that makes you feel special or glad you are here. If you will notice, it is often something that appears small or insignificant. We just might be entertaining God’s angels without realizing it. We have a lot of folks around for whom we can give thanks to God. It will make the week much more pleasant and you may be surprised that you are more special than you think.