

We are women who know the joy of the Spirit-filled life. We live and abide in the love of Jesus, trusting that He is enough to meet every need and satisfy every heart.

## Surprising Kindness

## Marilyn Lefevre

"The people of the island were very kind to us. It was cold and rainy, so they built a fire on the shore to welcome us." Acts 28:2 NLT Read Acts 27:1-28:10.

Last Sunday during the praise and prayer time in our church service, a woman praised God for the kindness of the person in the car ahead of her own in a fast-food drive-through. The person in the car ahead paid for her lunch when they paid for their own. My friend was completely taken aback by such a thing. I will not be surprised if she is still talking about it this Sunday as well.

Another man in the same service said a local radio station encouraged their listeners to offer random acts of kindness to those they meet. Another local Christian radio station also encourages its listeners to offer acts of kindness to others during their day, using this phrase. "Sprinkle kindness everywhere today!" \*

Paul was on a ship headed for Rome as a prisoner. He felt he had been treated unjustly and was bound to plead his case before Caesar. The journey was horrific, to say the least. In the end, the ship became wrecked on an unrecognizable coastline. In Acts 28:1 Paul writes, "The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold."

Why does it surprise us when we are the recipients of kindness? Have acts of kindness become so foreign that when a stranger does something kind for us, it is almost shocking. The lady in our church was utterly amazed that a stranger would be so kind to her. My heart broke that she had not been shown this kindness before.

As I read the phrase "Sprinkle kindness everywhere today!" I could not help but wonder what the response would be if it read, "Sprinkle Jesus everywhere today!" As believers, offering kindness to others comes from hearts overflowing because of the kindness of Jesus, a heart that shows the fruits of the Spirit. When we offer kindness, we offer others a glimpse at the heart of the God who expressed His kindness to us in Jesus.

If given the chance today, would you be the one to "build a fire" for a stranger, sprinkling kindness somewhere today? Remember, we are not just offering simple human kindness, we are sprinkling Jesus wherever we go today. Will you sprinkle someone today with Jesus?