

ACTS STUDY QUESTIONS, WEEK 2

Monday, May 24: Acts 3:11-26

1. In Verse 16, Peter explains to the people about how the crippled beggar was healed. He says, “It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has given complete healing to him.” Here Peter is ascribing the miracle of healing to the power that comes from faith in Jesus and through Jesus. As believers, we too have power that comes from faith in Jesus but we seldom make use of it. What can this power do in our society and time? Consider how you can show the power of Jesus in your life this week.
2. In verse 19, Peter encourages the people to repent so that their sins might be wiped out and times of refreshing would come to them. How does repentance function in your life? Does forgiveness from Jesus cause refreshing times in your life? Should it?

Tuesday, May 25: Acts 4:1-22

1. The priests and the Sadducees were “greatly disturbed” in verse 2, because Peter and John were preaching the resurrection of the dead, and they themselves did not believe in resurrection. The belief that we will be resurrected to new life when Jesus comes again is central to our faith. What does the resurrection mean to you? How does this hope make a difference in your life, especially considering there are so many that do not have that hope?
2. Throughout Acts, Peter defends his faith and preaches the gospel to many religious people. He explains salvation through Christ with these words (v. 12): “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.” Our American culture tends to claim that there are many roads to God and many paths to salvation. How would you articulate your own faith in Jesus to someone who does not recognize that salvation comes through Christ?

Wednesday, May 26, Acts 4:23-37

1. Verse 31 describes how the early believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and because of it, spoke the word of God boldly. Spend time in prayer today asking the Holy Spirit to fill you with boldness so that you might speak the word of God to someone today.
2. Acts 4: 32-37 speaks of how the early church shared all their possessions. This passage claims that there were no needy persons among them. How might we, as a church community, provide for the needs of our own members so that we might have no needy among us? What kind of changes could you personally make in your life to ensure that no one among us is in need?

Thursday, May 27, Acts 5:1-11

1. What exactly was Ananias and Sapphira’s sin? Pride? Greed? Deceit? Why do you think they received such a harsh punishment? What do you think it means, in our context, to “lie to the Holy Spirit” (v. 3)?
2. Verse 11 tells us that great fear came over the whole church because of the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira. How would you feel if you witnessed such swift and decisive punishment from God? How does divine judgment like this fit into the biblical portrait of God as merciful and loving?

Friday, May 28: Acts 5: 12-42

1. The apostles' preaching, their miraculous escape from prison, and their insistence on obeying God rather than people infuriated the authorities so much that they wanted to kill them. However, one wise Pharisee teacher named Gamaliel persuaded them that time would prove whether or not the teachings of the apostles were true. He said, "For if their purpose of activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these people; you will only find yourselves fighting against God." Now, almost 2,000 years later, the message the apostles preached is still being proclaimed. Spend some time in prayer thanking God that the true message of salvation has stood the test of time.
2. At the end of this chapter, the apostles are flogged, but verse 41 tells us that they "left the Sanhedrin rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name." So few of us know what it is like to suffer for Christ. Pray today that you might live faithfully and, if the situation arises, be willing to suffer disgrace for the Name. Today would also be a good day to pray for those around the world who face persecution because of their faith.