

“The Anointed Church”
Acts 13:1-3
Come, Holy Spirit: The Book of Acts Sermon Series
Dr. Mark Foster & Dr. Victor McCullough
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Last week in Syrian Antioch in Acts 12: An angel freed Peter from _____.
King Herod Agrippa has the guards _____.
Peter hands leadership of the Jerusalem church to James and leaves.
The church _____ and prospers in spite of the chaos.

Special Guest: Rev. Dr. Victor McCullough

This week in Acts 13:

Antioch has replaced Jerusalem as the _____ of the church’s mission.
In Acts 10, God shows no partiality. In Acts 13: Simeon is called _____.
Barnabas and Paul have _____ Peter and John as the primary witnesses to Jesus.
Paul proclaims the word of God, Jesus Christ, throughout what would be modern
day Turkey and _____ because of it.

A Christian Vision in the Midst of and Beyond Racism

What does God want us to know in this time from these scriptures?

What does God want us to do?

Action Step: “After fasting and praying,” _____.

Daily Reading & Reflection July 20 - 25, 2020

Monday – Acts 26: *“And now I stand here on trial on account of my hope in the promise made by God to our ancestors, a promise that our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship day and night.”* Acts 26:6-7
When we think of trials, we think of people who have been accused of doing something wrong or someone who has broken the law. Throughout Paul’s trials, it is affirmed and reaffirmed that he has not broken any laws and that he is simply on trial because there is a group of people who don’t like what he is saying. But the words that he is proclaiming are words of hope, words which generations upon generations of Jewish people would have yearned to hear. Now, when they are proclaimed, they find themselves incapable of hearing them.

There have likely been plenty of times in our lives when we’ve found ourselves unpopular for sharing Good News like telling a hard truth to someone who may need to hear it. Remember Paul’s words from last week’s reading and keep your courage. Proclaim the Gospel always!

Tuesday – Acts 27: *“Therefore I urge you to take some food, for it will help you survive; for none of you will lose a hair from your heads.”* Acts 27:34

Paul and his companions find themselves battered by waves and wind in the middle of a storm which has been raging for two weeks. They are floating somewhat aimlessly in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, frightened for their lives, when Paul reminds them of the importance of eating. “Why eat when we’re about die?” some of them may have thought. However, the symbolism in this chapter is powerful. When we are in the midst of life’s storms, we’re reminded to get back to basics – the breaking of bread, fellowship, and prayer. These are the things which will keep our spirits alive.

Invite someone to a socially distanced coffee or lunch this week. Find an opportunity to remember your Acts 2 roots.

Wednesday – Acts 28: *“The natives showed us unusual kindness. Since it had begun to rain and was cold, they kindled a fire and welcomed all of us around it.”* Acts 28:2

In the chat section of Church Online last week, our Director of Discipleship Michael Andres asked us what is one piece of the Kingdom of Heaven we wish we could experience on earth today. More than one person replied with one simple word: “Kindness.”

What does “unusual kindness” look like in our community and culture today? How can you extend an act of “unusual kindness” to someone else this week?

Thursday – Philippians 1: *“I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.”* Philippians 1:23-24

Paul’s letter to the Church at Philippi highlights for us the tension that we must daily live with as followers of Jesus – yearning for everything in the world to be made right, the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth, and simply experiencing the divine joy of Heaven itself. That yearning desire is what grounds our speech and our actions today. We look ahead of what is to come so that we can be better informed of how we are to live here and now.

What part of Heaven do you wish you could experience today? How might you help realize a piece of Heaven in someone else’s life today?

Friday – Philippians 2: *“Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 2:4-5

Time and time again, Paul exhorts the early Church to be of one mind. Unity is an obsession of the Holy Spirit and vital to the strength and vitality of the Body of Christ in the world. There are so many things which we can look towards that divide us—labels are plenty! When we rally behind Christ crucified and risen, we find that through the power of the Holy Spirit, people’s lives and the world will be changed.

The core values of our church are: Welcome All, Love Authentically, Light of the World. Write these somewhere where you will see them on a daily basis. Remember them and remember that the more we look to Jesus, the more like Jesus we will become.