

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“*Expansion of Faith*” – Series

NOTE TAKERS...

- I’ve titled today’s message: **“Making It Personal”**
 - (Acts 26:1-32) NKJV

~ INTRO ~

ALRIGHT... AS WE’VE STUDIED (ACTS)...

- We’ve learned about the nuts & bolts of ministry...
 - Thru the life examples of Peter & Paul.
- AND... we’ve understood the stories from the early church...
 - Which encourage us & teach us how to live for Christ today!

CHURCH AS WE BEGIN TODAY’S STUDY...

- I want to prompt you to pay attention & write something down...
 - That God wants YOU... to put into action this week.

NOW...

- In the final chapters of (Acts)...
 - We learn how to advance the gospel personally.

TODAY...

- The scene continues from where we left off last week in...
 - (Acts 25:23-27)
- Paul was brought into a Roman Court by Festus – Governor –
 - Who wanted a second opinion from his buddy King Agrippa II...
 - As to what should be done with Paul.

PAUL DIDN’T...

- Violated any Roman Law...
 - BUT he was a nuisance to the religious leaders of Judaism.
 - Because he converted to Christianity...
 - And followed Christ who fulfilled the OT Prophecies.

HERE’S A FEW THINGS WE CAN LEARN TODAY...

IDEA #1 – LIFE BEFORE CHRIST:

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“*Expansion of Faith*” – Series

PAUL WAS NO STRANGER...

- To persecuting the church and tormenting those...
 - Who believed in Jesus.

UNTIL JESUS OPENED HIS HEART IN (Acts 9)...

- And Paul had a personal encounter with Christ.
 - Then he was a changed man after that!

NOW... JESUS...

- Told the disciples what would happen to them after He was gone.
 - (Luke 21:12-15) NLT

THIS IS EXACTLY... WHAT PAUL WAS EXPERIENCING.

- He was telling the Governor & the King about God...
 - Thru his personal testimony:
 - (vv.4-5) *I lived a religious life*
 - (v.9) *I did many religious things*
 - (vv.10-11) *I hurt innocent people*

What life before Jesus looks like:

(Eph. 2:1-3) NLT

- #1) WE live with a temporary view...
 - And waste life on things that have no eternal value.
 - (money / time / activities)

- #2) WE live under the control of Satan.

THE BIBLE TEACHES...

- Satan rules over the inward PERSON who's not saved...
 - Making them a slave to sin!
- #3) WE live according to basic instincts of what feels good...
 - And nurture impulses that run contrary to God's revealed will.
 - (sex / drugs / rock-n-roll)

(Gal. 5:19-21) NLT

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“*Expansion of Faith*” – Series

- This describes five-categories of sin in a life apart from Christ:
 - 1) *Sexual sins*
 - 2) *Superstitious sins*
 - 3) *Violent sins*
 - 4) *Manipulative sins*
 - 5) *Social sins*

HERE’S THE POINT...

- People living in these conditions are NOT saved!
- When a person accepts the gift of grace from Christ...
 - Their freed from the practices that cause pain...
 - And given a new nature to choose life!

(Luke 24:45-47) NLT

IDEA #2 – COMING TO CHRIST:

PAUL CONTINUES HIS TESTIMONY... (vv.12-14)...

- Arriving at the place... of calling Jesus lord (v.15).

JESUS THEN GIVES PAUL...

- His calling (v.16) NLT...
 - *My servant and witness.*

THREE THINGS TO UNDERSTAND:

- 1) *Servants*
- 2) *Witnesses*
- 3) *Mission*

SERVANTS ARE COMMITTED TO CHRIST.

- They follow the Good Shepherd...
 - AND are teachable as they learn of His ways.
- Servants can be taught & corrected & they don’t need the limelight.

ON THE OTHER HAND...

VOLUNTEERS ERODE THE LOCAL CHURCH FROM WITHIN...

- Because they’re self-serving individuals.

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“*Expansion of Faith*” – Series

- They abandon their service when something better arrives...
 - They’re not dependable...
 - And many times they won’t receive correction.

GANG... THE CHURCH IS NOT LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

- Because Jesus only appoints servants.

AND WHAT DO **HIS SERVANTS** DO?

- We tell other people what we know about Jesus.
 - (Matt. 10:27) NLT

YOU SEE...

- It’s the *still small voice of the Lord that speaks to our heart*...
 - And we can’t keep it in.
- Jeremiah’s heart burned when he tried to be quiet (Jer. 20:9) NLT
- Luke & Cleopas experienced the same thing (Luke 24:32) NLT

MAY WE UNDERSTAND...

- That our relationship with God was never intended...
 - To be hidden from the world around us... we’re to be witnesses.

THE BIBLE SAYS...

- (Matt. 5:13-16) NLT

HERE’S THE POINT...

- (v.18) we’ve been called to live on mission.

IDEA #3 – LIVING FOR CHRIST:

PAUL SAYS (v.19)...

- I *obeyed* when God saved me...
 - I didn’t dodge His call.

BUT... HE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGES THE REALITY...

- That following Jesus can be a struggle... at times (v.21).

(John 15:18-19) NLT

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“*Expansion of Faith*” – Series

ANYONE WHO LIVES A LIFE OF FAITH...

- Will get the attention of others (v.24) Festus & (v.27) Agrippa.

~ IN CLOSING ~

PAUL HAD A HEART FOR THE LOST...

- (vv.28-29).

MAY WE CHOOSE TO LIVE FOR CHRIST...

- In our daily decisions...
 - And may the fruit of His presence...
 - Spill into those around us.