

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“God of the Impossible” – Series

~ LET’S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I’ve titled today’s message: **“Conquering the Critics.”**

~ INTRO ~

TODAY WE HAVE...

- A multi-layered storyline with continuing events in the early church.

AND WHILE THERE’S A LOT TO COVER HERE...

- I’m going to take a general approach...
 - That allows us to survey the whole scene...
 - And walk away with a few useable truths.

HERE’S WHAT OUR TEXT SAYS:

- (Acts 5:12-17) NKJV

IDEA #1 – THE APOSTLES POWER: (vv.12-13)

THIS TEAM OF LEADERS...

- Were in sync with the Holy Spirit & each other!
 - (v.12) “*one accord.*”

WHAT A GOOD REMINDER...

- Of what all Christians should all be working toward.
 - A single aim of glorifying Christ as one global body.

IN THE O.T.

- There are many examples of how fractures weaken...
 - The work of God’s people – (Joshua 7).
 - One guy halted the entire progress.
 - (Ecc. 9:18) NKJV

NOW... REMEMBER THIS.

- Struggles outside of the church are common & part of life.
 - (Rom. 8:35-37) NLT
 - And all of us would do well to keep our eyes on Jesus.
 - (Ps. 34:19) NLT

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IDEA #2 – UNUSUAL HEALINGS: (vv.14-16)

THESE VERSES...

- Must be read together... to keep the context.

WE’RE READING ABOUT ACTS OF FAITH HERE...

- And not a pattern of healing!
 - Critical scholars diminish these verses...
 - By attempting to eliminate the supernatural.
- But these truths are revealed throughout the NT.

FOR EXAMPLE:

- 1) (Acts 19:11-12) NKJV
- 2) (Matt. 9:20-21) NKJV

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

- Because if... DOUBT... is sown into your heart...
 - Your life will lack faith in an all-powerful God!
 - And your needs will go unmet!!!
 - (James 5:14-15) NKJV

IDEA #3 – FIGHTING GOD: (vv.17-27)

RELIGIOUS PEOPLE...

- Don’t allow God to work!
 - They fight against Him by getting mad...
 - That their demands / expectations are NOT met (v.17).

CHURCH...

- The natural man hates the conviction of the Holy Spirit!
 - And this group was guilty of the blood of Jesus.

SO... LET’S CONSIDER THIS FOR A MOMENT.

- The prophet Isaiah – (Isaiah 6)
 - Got a glimpse of God & understood his sin!
 - God forgave his sins...

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- And then He sent Isaiah out with a message.

CHRISTIAN...

- It's the same pattern for you.
 - God has forgiven your sin!

NOW...

- You're to live on mission with His heart...
 - As He sends you into... a dark & difficult world.

BUT WE HAVE TO WATCHOUT...

- That we don't turn from our Savior.
 - (Isa. 45:9a) NLT
 - “*What sorrow awaits those who argue with their creator.*”

THE APOSTLES...

- Got put in jail and had moments of difficult living!
 - But God's favor was on them... and they didn't turn from Him.
 - He opened the door before them (v.19)...
 - And instructed them to continue teaching (vv.20-21).

HERE'S THE POINT...

- Never let anything come between you & Jesus!

Read (v.29)

IDEA #4 – THE ADVICE OF A DONKEY: (vv.34-39)

(Num. 22:21-32) What does God have to do to get your attention?

- Balaam didn't come to... until his donkey talked.

IN (Acts 5)... THESE PEOPLE WERE...

- Fighting against God & arrested the apostles (v.18).

THEIR EYES WERE SET ON...

- Having it their way...
 - But they completely missed what they had been looking for...
 - The Messiah!

HOW FOOLISH DO WE ACT...

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- When we resist the **ONE** we need!?!
- A fight against God... is a fight against our own good.

Gamaliel said... (vv.38-39)

IDEA #5 – THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE: (vv.40-42)

THEY WERE...

- Fearless in persecution as God’s grace surrounded them (v.40).
 - They rejoiced in the suffering (v.41).
 - And they continued in the mission (v.42).

THEY DIDN’T GIVE UP!

~ IN CLOSING ~

I WANT TO ENCOURAGE YOU...

- To sit with God instead of rushing out.