

Weekly Study Guide

The week of June 9, 2013

Daily Readings

Monday	Read Acts 4:1-12. The Sadducees felt threatened by Peter and John because they didn't know how these men had healed a crippled man. In verse 8 we can see the absurdity of being arrested for healing, but Peter's words show that he knows the real fear is about the source of the power behind the healing. The Sadducees did believe that God had the power to heal, but when they saw God's power being released in Jesus' name through 'unschooled men' they got nervous. Has anything you've experienced ever made you re-think what you thought you knew about God? Did that nerve-wracking moment bring you growth?
Tuesday	Read Acts 4:13-20. Denial is a powerful thing in our lives. These men had seen Peter and John had been given miraculous power in Jesus' name to heal a man. Yet they felt they still had the authority over Peter and John to tell them not to speak or teach in Jesus' name. They had seen God's power at work in the name of Jesus, and yet they didn't understand it, so out of fear, what they wanted to do was silence it. Have you ever felt that Jesus wanted to do something in your life that pushed at the edges of your comfort zone? Confess your fears to God, and ask for him to show you the power that is greater than you at work in you.
Wednesday	Read Acts 4: 20-31. When the disciples were threatened by the powerful people of the world, they were forced to rely on God's power alone to be their protection and provider. In those moments they called upon God's promises for his people and claimed them in Jesus' name. They prayed for boldness to do God's will, and they were given signs of God's Holy Spirit with them to encourage them. Do you need encouragement in your faith today? Ask God for what you need and for the Holy Spirit's power to be at work in your life.
Thursday	Read Acts 4:32-5:11. The early church invested in each other's lives to build one another up both in faith and earthly need. One couple, however, decided to lie about their giving. The problem wasn't that they didn't give it all, the problem was they <i>said</i> they had. We can't make ourselves look good in God's eyes by being disingenuous. God knows the heart, and he wants our honest praise and genuine giving to what he values. Giving should not be done to make ourselves look good but to honor God alone. Do you see your giving as an important part of your commitment to seek God's will with your life? Ask God for his will in this area.
Friday	Read Acts 5: 12-16. God's Holy Spirit was powerfully at work in the apostles. The crowds saw and knew that God was doing something here. They were in awe of what they were seeing, but they didn't dare join the apostles. Why might God work like this: showing a powerful season of miraculous healing and witness for a while, then leading into seasons when God's power is less obvious and requires simple trust? What do you think made the people 'not dare' to join the apostles? How would you feel if you were in that crowd? In a 'quieter' season, would you feel more bold to ask questions? What do you think would help people new to the faith to ask today?
Saturday	Read Acts 5: 17-42. In this passage, who thinks they are in control? Who is actually in control? What does God do in this passage? What do the people of faith do? What role does jealousy play in the decisions that are made? How does this passage comfort you? How does it challenge you?



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