

**MONDAY 5.16.22 – JOHN 16:33**

The book of Acts begins with an account of the Ascension of Jesus. This is not merely about His departure from the disciples, this is about Jesus taking His good and rightful place, enthroned in heaven and positioned in the place of highest glory AND authority. On the other side of His suffering and death is His resurrection and coronation. "The head that once was crowned with thorns, is crowned with glory now" ('Resurrecting' - Elevation Worship).

Jesus knew what it was like to have trouble and He knew that we would experience trouble as well. But He also knew that the story doesn't end with trouble... the worst thing is never the last thing, the best is yet to come.

Regardless of the troubles you may be facing, no matter how real the struggles may be... take Jesus at His word and "take heart." He Has Overcome! He is risen, He has ascended! The tomb is still empty and the King is still on His throne.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**TUESDAY 5.17.22 – 1 CORINTHIANS 16:13**

Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the strength to stand strong in the presence of your fear. Joshua was headed into unknown territory and facing what seemed to be overwhelming odds when God told him to be strong and courageous, for I am with you. In essence God was telling Joshua this land is not unknown to me, and if I am with you no man can stand against you no matter what the odds, so trust me and be courageous. Joshua needed to give his fears to God so that he could be strong and courageous. What fears do you need to give to God today? Stop right now and listen to God. He is saying trust me, give me your fears and be strong and courageous. Give your fears to God. Trust that He is able to do "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (EPH. 3:20) and "be strong and courageous" (JOS. 1:6).

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**WEDNESDAY 5.18.22 – ACTS 8:1-25**

Acts chapter 8 begins the second phase in the spread of the gospel. Jesus told His followers, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (1:8). Due to persecution, the believers in Jerusalem scatter to Judea and Samaria.

Probably most of us won't experience persecution for Christ in our lifetime. The worst inconvenience that we'll face is enduring some mockery at school, some sarcasm at work, or some trouble in the neighborhood. However, if you were to be persecuted for the cause of Christ as the Early Church was, would you stay true to Jesus? You might if you're able to answer three questions in the affirmative.

- Is Jesus central to my life?
- Do I talk with Jesus in prayer daily?
- Does Jesus' will for me supersede my own will?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**THURSDAY 5.19.22 – ISAIAH 40:29-31**

Have you ever thought about how God's logic often seems so illogical? I can start in Genesis and go through Revelation showing you time after time where what God chose to do seemed to make no human sense. I can take you to the hospital and show you situations that seem so unfair. I can take you to the children and youth center and assure you that

you will be screaming "this is so unjust, it is just not right. Why is this? The answer is simple, our understanding is earth bound, we have blinders on and can only see a small part of the picture. As believers we believe that God is in the middle of every situation, and He has a plan. Even though we often do not understand, if we trust in God and believe that He is still on His throne and in complete control, we will be empowered to mount up with wings of eagles and soar above every situation. Seek God and ask Him to empower you today so that no matter what you are facing, you may soar with wings like the eagle.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**FRIDAY 5.20.22 – PSALM 73:26-28**

Where do you get your strength? Where do you look for something to help get you through your day? You believe in God, yes? You believe that Jesus died on the cross, right? Yet, all too often you turn from Him and say... I got this.

Pastor Joby Martin says: "One of the greatest criticisms of Christianity is that it is just a crutch... a crutch for the weak. You fool. Dead people don't need crutches! It ain't a crutch! A crutch is a lot of me and a little bit of help. I don't need me and the gospel to hobble my way into heaven. NO! The gospel is not a crutch! The gospel is a stretcher! I need God to pick my dead self up, throw me on the stretcher, and the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to tote me all the way in!!!" Our flesh and our heart may fail, but GOD IS OUR STRENGTH!!!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

### SUNDAY MORNINGS – 9:40AM\*

**Kids** CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)  
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level  
*\*available during 9:40 AND 11:00 services*

NURSERY (through Age 3)  
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level  
*available during the 9:40 service*

**Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)

**Adults** EXPLORE THE BIBLE – Room B8-10 (Lower Level)  
*1 and 2 Thessalonians with Jim Kline*  
MASTERWORK – Room B11 (Lower Level)  
*"Absolute Surrender" with Jack Devlin (4.17–5.29)*  
PERSON OF INTEREST – Room B1-2 (Lower Level)  
*with Steven Miller*

### SUNDAY EVENINGS – 6:00PM

**Kids** KID'S CLUB (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)  
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level  
CURRENT SERIES: Messiah's Kids – Answers for Kids

**Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)  
*5th–8th Grade meet downstairs*  
*9th–12th Grade meet upstairs*

**Adults** DIVE DEEP WITH DOUG  
LOCATION: Worship Center  
CURRENT SERIES: **Exodus**  
BIG IDEA – SMALL GROUP(S)  
LOCATION: Room B8-10 (Lower Level)  
*Group discussion following the scriptures and themes of Sunday morning's message. Jump in any time as we go through the Book of ACTS together.*

### WEDNESDAY EVENINGS – 6:30PM

**THE POWER OF KNOWING GOD (beginning May 4th)**  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)

### WOMEN'S STUDY – THURSDAYS at 9:00aM

**JESUS & WOMEN (April 21 – June 2)**  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)

*TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY GROUPS OR CLASSES,  
PLEASE USE THE CONNECT CARD IN YOUR BULLETIN. THANK YOU!*

## SERMON NOTES

### ACTS 6:8–7:60

In order to stand up for Jesus, you need to ...

1. \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ (6:8-15)

You become wise and filled with the Spirit as you hear the Word of God, believe it to be true, and obey it. That's why it's imperative to have a regular intake of the Scriptures and to apply it to your life.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ (7:1-50)

In verses 2-16, Stephen deals with Israel's patriarchal period. He reviews the lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. He refutes the charge of speaking against God.

In verses 17-43, Stephen deals with Moses and the Law. He reviews the life of Moses and how Israel received the Old Testament Law. He refutes the charge of speaking against Moses and the Law.

In verses 44-50, Stephen deals with the Temple. He reviews how Israel had the Tabernacle in the wilderness and that Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem. He refutes the charge of speaking against it.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ (7:51-60)

Stephen died for the cause of Christ, and there are brothers and sisters around the world today who are being martyred for their faith in Jesus.


*"In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." – 2 Timothy 3:12*

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day  
TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



## May 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>

#### INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip () every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

#### OVERVIEW:

Monday's and Tuesday's readings will be a follow up on today's message in Acts 5. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us to continue in the book of Acts next Sunday as we look at Steadfastness in Power in Acts 8.

#### KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

*"Jesus is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."*

–ACTS 4:11-12