

**Monday, 31 July 2017 Acts 5:12-14**

*Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,*

A mystery in this passage is the identity of the cowardly rest. Who were those who didn't dare to join the apostles in Solomon's Portico? Who were the ones the people held in high esteem? But the answer to my questions did not affect the results. Multitudes were added to the Kingdom of God.

Is the instruction here that I am to focus on the message, not on who is or is not in the audience? The Spirit will provide the receptive ears.

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**Tuesday, 1 August 2017**

*Acts 5:27-29*

*And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.*

The "aha" moment! The Conforming Church reads that as "We must obey Man rather than God" It is easy to find good and powerful reasons to support my craven desire not to make waves.

My instruction from my Lord is that I must be prepared to lay down my life for Him as He did for me. And the corollary is that everything less dear to me than my life is there to be counted as part of the willing to be paid cost.

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**Wednesday, 2 August 2017 Acts 5:30-32**

*The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."*

All the passages studied this week demonstrated that belief

and obedience are not just synonyms, they are so closely linked that they must be regarded as the David and Jonathan of English lexicon. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the proof that to believe is to obey and to obey is to believe.

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**Thursday, 3 August 2017 Acts 6:7**

*And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.*

What was the Word of God that was preached? Acts 5:42 tells us that the disciples preached that the Messiah is Jesus. A simple but powerful message that they supported quotations from the Scriptures. Look at Phillip's 'sermon' to the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:32-35

Who did the preaching? The disciples, the followers of the Christ, the obedient ones. The multiplied ones!

Result? Many of the priests became obedient to the faith through the preaching of a simple gospel to the clergy.

Maybe we've got the responsibilities backward in this modern age? Now the clergy preaches complex and arcane doctrine, and no one is obedient.

Time to return to our roots?

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**Friday, 4 August 2017 Acts 7:35-40**

*"This Moses, whom they rejected, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge?'—this man God sent as both ruler and redeemer by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush. This man led them out, performing wonders and signs in Egypt and at the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years. This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, 'God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers.' This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us. Our fathers refused to obey him, but thrust him aside, and in their hearts they turned to Egypt, saying to Aaron, 'Make for us gods who will go before us. As for this Moses who led us out from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'*

Refusal to obey is disobedience. And it was based on? A decision to disobey rather than to obey. Let me emphasize:

disobedience is a conscious act, concluding that the rewards of obedience and the consequences of disobedience do not outweigh the satisfaction of self-defining my own gods.

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**Saturday, 5 August 2017 Acts 8:9-12**

*But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great." And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*

Seems to me to be a contest between entertainment and the presentation of a good news that was real and brought the righteousness, peace, and joy of the Kingdom of God into their lives.

Aren't our 'seeker sensitive' churches and those catering to Sunday Morning Only churches both using an entertainment approach? Where is the Good News that draws the lost, the least and the lonely in? Where is the Gospel that preaches that all our righteousness is as filthy rags? Where is the evidence of lives lived in faith/belief/trust/commitment/obedience?

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**Lord's Day, 6 August 2017 Psalm 119:98**

*Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.*

It is that Your commandments reflect truth and the reality of the Kingdom. There are no dichotomies between the economy of the Kingdom and the span of the Law. One is the other.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*July 31-August 6, 2017*

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 1 Thessalonians 5:28**  
*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all to whom we minister, to our entire Personal Mission Field. May our every endeavor be directed to bring all those that You have given to us into the fold, to bring about the discipling of all nations as You have directed. *Amen*

**Creational Theology hint for the week**—I continue to marvel at the order that exists throughout the Creation. There is **no** chaos—anywhere. If chaos were the driving force behind the creation; where did it go? I see humor in the assertions of self-proclaimed scientists as they strive to find evidence of the chaos, but their very methods depend upon order and repeat ability. They would be madmen in a chaotic world.

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