

# 339: July 7; Courage and Conversion (New Testament Week 27)

Reading: Acts 1-5

1. Prayer: Pray we can be productively “troubled in our hearts” and discover what we need to do, then do it.
2. Devotion: Find and \*practice\* your better self (thoughts about understanding, answers vs. practice, patience, and endurance) Explanations can distract and deflect
3. Lesson: Converted into the Church family
  - a. Jesus’ death (Not just dying, but facing humiliation, mocking, misunderstanding, the turning upside down of our greatest hopes)
  - b. Resurrection (Life in love, hope after even humiliation, devastation, and the death of what we know)
  - c. The birth of the Church
    - i. Key question (troubled in their hearts. What shall we do??) (2:37)
    - ii. Join the life of the church (dedicated themselves, all things in common, worshipped in temple, broke bread, “with gladness and humble hearts)
    - iii. Silver and gold I have done, but what I do have I will give... (3:6)
    - iv. If this work be of God... (5:38-39)
4. Nugget: Creeds and testimonia
5. Reading Review (Read Wayments intro)
  - a. Acts 1: Intro; Ascension of Jesus; Matthias chosen as new apostle
  - b. Acts 2: Holy Spirit on Day of Pentacost (miracle of languages); Peter’s first address (Jesus who was crucified has been raised); First converts
  - c. Acts 3: Peter’s miracle; Second address (prophecies have been fulfilled; repent and return)
  - d. Acts 4: Peter and John arrested (leaders admire their courage, though they are uneducated and common/not formally trained. Or illiterate?). Prayer of Jesus’ followers “Filled with the holy spirit, and they spoke the word of God with courage”; Having all things in common; believers are one heart, one soul, great grace was upon them, everyone had what they need (very similar to multiple points in the Book of Mormon. This is the pattern of the righteous). Inspired by what Church does for prisoners
  - e. Acts 5: Ananias and Sapphira; early apostolic miracles; persecution of the apostles “teach the people all the words of this life”. We must obey God, not people; Gamaliel “If this plan and work is from people, then it will fail, but if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them” (5:38-39)

6. Participation: How can we know that our path is God's will and "cannot fail"? (Adam's confirmation)
7. Questions
  - a. Matthias chosen by lot
  - b. Ananias and Sapphira
8. Conclusion: Change our hearts, join a community, become transformed both individually and collectively