

The Briefest of Honeymoons

1. Jesus Is Preparing His Covenant Community for Deployment.
2. This Community of Faith Is a Place of Life and Healing.
3. This Respite Is Brief *So That We Might Trust Christ* Not Prosperity.

Christ is sovereignly establishing His Church throughout all the earth to declare His resurrection and live out His kingdom. Sometimes He provides wonderful respites like that described in this passage. But He is working on something far greater than our temporary comfort. Let us trust Him together to extend His Kingdom throughout the earth!

Jeremiah 9: 23 – 26

Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.” “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will punish all those who are circumcised merely in the flesh—Egypt, Judah, Edom, the sons of Ammon, Moab, and all who dwell in the desert who cut the corners of their hair, for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in heart.”

Taken from *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*.

Question #26: What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Answer: Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered to us in the gospel.

Acts—Series Overview

The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power

Acts records God’s faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit’s direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!

Taking Gathered Worship Home

We would like to camp out a little while in these verses (Acts 5:12-16), wouldn't we? It would be nice to have only the blessings and none of the trials, persecutions, and heartaches that come with following Jesus. Let's look together at how Christ calls us to follow Him in blessing and difficulties.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ Acts 5:12-16; Jeremiah 9:23-25; Acts 1:8. DISCUSS, What does Jesus do through His Church? How can these same testimonies to His power also give us false hope? What might that look like? Who is the source of our wisdom, might, and riches? PRAY for God to equip us for His mission for us to glorify Him through life-giving work.

Sunday Evening

In lieu of the evening worship service tonight, please set apart some time to pray for God to bring repentance and renewal to us at FCCW and throughout His Church.

Monday

READ Acts 5:12-16; Psalm 20:1-9; Romans 15:1-7. DISCUSS, What things are tempting for you to trust in instead of God's provision? It's probably not chariots or Peter walking by. So what is it? Why do we struggle so? PRAY for the congregation of FCCW that we might trust in nothing apart from Christ. Ask Him to help us delight in Him and His provision for us.

Tuesday

READ Acts 5:12-16; Isaiah 31:1-9. DISCUSS, What alliances or partnerships do you have to help keep you safe? How can those be good? Why might they be bad? What does over-reliance on those things look like? PRAY, "Lord Jesus, thank You that Your loving-kindness for us is never-ending. There will never be a time when You fail us or desert us. Help us to not elevate anyone else to Your place."

Wednesday

READ Acts 5:12-16; Exodus 4:1-9; 7:8-13; 17-25. DISCUSS, What do these instances of God working supernaturally through His people have in common. What differences do you see? Are we trusting in His signs and wonders or in Him? What does it look like to live by faith in Christ? Why? **SERVE:** If you are able, make a sign for the FCCW Hope Garden PRAY, "Lord, You are the Giver of Life and in You we have resurrection confidence."

Thursday

READ Acts 5:12-16; John 2:18-25. Compare Acts 19:12 and 1Tim 5:23. DISCUSS, What are some of the limitations of supernatural signs? Why does God provide them sometimes and not others? PRAY, "Lord, teach us to trust You and to see Your wisdom as so much greater than our own."

Friday

READ Acts 5:12-16; Jeremiah 9:23-25; Romans 15:1-7. How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? **REJOICE,** for Christ will make us gloriously pure! PRAY for renewal in the Church and revival in our land.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

READ Acts 5:1-42. Invite others to watch the *live-stream service* with you tomorrow. Pray for Christ to grant us boldness in following Him.

Acts 1: 8

Jesus said, "... But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."