

**Sunday Sermon Review: Week of August 15th, 2021**

**Sermon Series: The Book of Acts**

**Sermon: Questions I ask About Our Faith in Jesus**

**Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette**

## **Icebreaker**

- What is something that you love to do, but can be very difficult in the process?

## **Conversation Starters and Sermon Review**

### **I. Is There A Cost for Our Faith? v.17-26**

- Have you been practicing Christian Living or religious living?
  - How do you know?
- Religion is based on law, not a relationship with Jesus. Do you know anyone who is religious but does not have a relationship with Jesus in your life? What could you share with them?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word suffering?
- What if our government or your bosses told you that you could not pray in public, gather in worship, or share the name of Jesus?
- What has it cost you to Live for God?

### **II. Do We Have the Right Motivation? v.27-32**

- v.29 – “We must obey God rather than men.”
- How do we obey God rather than man, how can this be a struggle?
- Have you invited God into your decision making?
  - Are there some decisions you have left him out of and why?
- Is it more motivating or intimidating to share Jesus with others?

- Do you move to it or shy away from it?
- The Primary motivation in LIFE should be centered on “I will obey God over all others. I will obey God NO MATTER WHAT.” Is that the primary motivation of our lives? What does it look like to correct that?

### **III. Do We Trust God for the Long Haul? V.33-39**

- What are some ways you keep your Joy in difficult circumstances?
- Do you truly trust that everything happens in God’s timing or does it depend on the circumstance? How can we find the blessing in an apparent burden?
- Have you noticed the trends in society lately? Does the craziness out there bother you so much that you can’t resist responding? What if we trusted God to let His plan come to fruition instead of trying to shut down these people we disagree with on the internet?
- Do you trust God Knows where He has you and what He’s doing in your life? Can you learn to be PATIENT, and TRUST GOD?
  - Do you trust God for the LONG HAUL? Do we trust that God is proving Himself as we love faithfully for him?

### **IV. Do We Count it an Honor to Serve God? v.40-42**

- What makes seeing suffering as an honor or privilege difficult?
  - Would you rejoice like the Apostles that you were counted worthy to suffer for Jesus?
- How do you deal with suffering?
- What Joy has it brought you to serve God?

**Act On It**

**Encourage:** Be encouraged to know that while we have different leaders pulling us to do or say or abstain from doing or saying things these days we have the only voice that matters guiding us. The constant voice of God guides us forward and his way is everlasting. Though it may cost us something today it will pale in comparison to our eternal reward. Matthew 5:12 reads, "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." After this Jesus compared us to the salt of the earth. Salt in the old testament was more valuable than gold! The value God places on each is beyond measure!

**Ask:** Pray for God to give you the Spirit of trust conveyed in Acts 29. Ask God to reveal your current motivation so you can see where your life is centered and how it needs to be refocused. Ask God to help you be centered on him in the face of uncertainty. When we find ourselves doubting our place in his plan, let us remember who sent us, who is walking with us, and whose plan we are fulfilling. For if God is for us, nothing can stand against us. Though this world will one day fade away, our God will remain, He will never fail.

**Challenge:** Sometimes instead of praying for God to change a situation, try praying to God to change your perspective on the situation. God can take our present burdens and transform them into blessings in the end. List the challenges you have going into the week and write down what you see God changing in you by the week's end.

## **Prayer Request and Prayer**

Father, remind us while we live in a nation without many restrictions to our faith there were many who did not have it as easy. There are still many today who are being killed for their faith. Help us to walk in boldness and meet our challenges with Joy, knowing who we are walking for. Help us Live

in a way that reflects you to the world, with boldness, without shame, and with assurance that you win in the end. The assembly of Israel gathered together when they were surrounded by sorrow and doubt, and rather than wallow in their current situation they cried out to the Lord. Lord, we cry out to you today to use us Father in your work, send us to others to share your name, walk with us, remind us, be our constant, our cornerstone, our source of everlasting love which you have poured out on us. Thank you Father, Amen.