

SHINE Devotional

Week 16 – Lesson 1



Delight

Scripture reading Acts 5:12-16

“And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; ...And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.”

The preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a powerful, powerful message. There is no greater power on this earth than the power to rise from the dead. Death is our last great enemy and the Gospel clearly pronounces that death was conquered by Jesus Christ. When a person puts their faith in Jesus Christ by confessing their sins and asking Him for salvation, they become a child of God and are infused with eternal life. The believer will never die. The power of Christ rests in us through His infinite Spirit, and because of that we have the opportunity of seeing lives changed. The apostles were endowed with miraculous power! Sick people were being healed, unclean spirits were being cast out, and a lame man who had never walked was walking, leaping, and praising God. It is a delightful thing to see the power of God move through the preaching of the Gospel. You may not have the gift of miracles that was given to Peter, yet, God, the Holy Spirit, wants to work powerfully through you to touch the lives of people.

I remember sharing the Gospel with a lady in our church auditorium one day. When she saw the simplicity of the Gospel, she blurred out, “You mean that is all I need to do? Just trust Jesus and I can go to heaven?” The message is amazing. It is life transforming and God wants you to share that message with others. Let me encourage you to be the witness that God has called you to be. Share that wonderful news so that others can delight in His truth and you as a believer will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 16 – Lesson 2



Fear

Scripture reading Acts 5:11 & 13

“And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things. ... And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.”

When the Gospel message is taken to heart by God’s people it will produce change. A lame man was changed by the power of the Gospel message. He had never walked and now he was walking. Just as he was changed, every person who puts their faith and trust in Jesus Christ has also been changed. The culture had been changed. The religious system of the day was being turned upside down. Thousands of people were meeting in Solomon’s Porch talking about this Man who was God, this Jesus Christ that died, was buried, and rose from the dead. People were hearing the message, and through the message people were being saved. Ananias and Sapphira had died. People were afraid because of what had taking place. God wants us to have a fearful respect for Him. God wanted the community to have a fearful respect for this new institution, the local church. The Bible teaches us there was fearful respect for God within the church and with those without the church who did not believe.

The life of God in His people will bring great change. It will bring great change to individuals and when God begins to work in individuals, He will also bring great change to their culture. Change also brings fear to those who do not understand our God. God wants us to fear Him, but He does not want us to fear what He is doing. We are in a time of great change in our world today and great cultural upheaval. There are many ungodly men who would take advantage of the present circumstances to gain power, wealth, and push an ungodly agenda. But our God has conquered fear and death. Even Satan is the unwilling servant of Jehovah God. As a believer you must remember that though the world cowers in fear because of the circumstances that we face, you, as a believer, are a child of the God who is in control of it all. He is working all things together for His glory. Fear Him, don’t fear the circumstances. While believers delighted in what God was doing in the New Testament, the unbelievers walked in fear. I encourage you today, delight in God and fear only Him, and you, as a believer, will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 16 – Lesson 3



Hatred

Scripture reading Acts 5:17-18

“Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation, And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.”

Hate is a powerful word and a very powerful emotion. It causes people to do things that they would not normally do if they were rational. Our passage today tells us that the high priest and the other Sadducees were filled with indignation. Indignation means that they were mad. They were filled with hatred. They hated the message of the Gospel. It contradicted everything they taught. Throughout the centuries of Christianity, people who have proclaimed the Gospel have been despised. They have been beaten. They have been thrown to lions. They had been burned at the stake, sometimes by people who call themselves Christians. Why? Because the Gospel is offensive. The Gospel tells us that we are sinners, and religious people do not want to hear that they are sinners. Religious people like to think that they can work their way to heaven themselves through baptism, church membership, or tithing. To be a Christian means to admit that I am a sinner, that I deserve to go to hell and that I am no better than anyone else.

The Sadducees hated the Gospel because it pointed out their sin and their need for a Savior. When Jesus was meeting with His disciples for the last time, as He walked through a vineyard on His way to Gethsemane, He told them, *“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you”* (John 15:18).

People get mad when their need of a Savior is pointed out. We must in love share the Gospel even with those who hate us. Why? Because it is the only way a person can get to heaven. When you share the Gospel, some will fear, some will despise with indignation. No matter what the response, we must share the Gospel so that we can SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 16 – Lesson 4

Obedience



Scripture reading Acts 5:19-21a

“But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life. And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught.”

Peter was filled with the Spirit of God and because of the Gospel message, he determined he had to be obedient to God no matter what the consequences were. As he stood up and preached the Gospel, he was imprisoned for the message. While he lay in prison that evening, an angel came and miraculously set him loose. If you were in prison and then miraculously let go, what would you do? I am afraid I would run as far away from that prison as I possibly could, but he had a message from God. When he was let go, the angel told him, *“Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life”* (Acts 5:20). Without hesitation, Peter obeyed. He went back to the temple and taught. He did exactly what he was thrown in prison for.

We have a message and we must obey God rather than man. Throughout history, starting with the first believers, there have been times when the Gospel message has been forbidden. We have been told to disobey what the Word of God clearly tells us to do. America was founded by people who left persecution. Christians who were forbidden the right to assemble and, yet, they chose to obey God rather than man. Some were beaten as in our Scripture today. Some were thrown to lions. Many were crucified. Some were burned at the stake. Some were beaten. But they all stood for what God wanted them to stand for. The Gospel message tells us to obey God. It is a powerful message that must be preached even in the face of those who hate the truth. Throughout history, Christians have found a way to proclaim the Gospel whether it was politically correct or not. As a believer, it is absolutely essential that you make a determination to obey God even if it means persecution. In Acts 5:29 the Bible says this, *“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”* The Gospel demands our obedience. When you choose to obey God, then you, as a believer, will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 16 – Lesson 5



Frustration

Scripture reading Acts 5:21b-25

“But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned and told, Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within. Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow. Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.”

I don't know if you have ever been around somebody who is constantly talking, and you think you will never get away from them. That is the frustration that the Sadducees, chief priest, and Sanhedrin had with this new group of believers. I can remember years ago, we had an elderly man come to our house for dinner. He sat at the table right next to Joshua, when Joshua was about four or five years old. Joshua loved to talk. Joshua had Matt sitting next to him and he just talked, and talked, and talked, and talked. Finally, the frustrated, gray haired old man looked over at Joshua and asked him, “Don't you ever shut up?” Joshua laughed and kept on talking. The Sadducees were that frustrated! The chief priest was so frustrated with this new group. They just would not shut up. They kept talking about Jesus. They locked them in prison and they came back! They escaped from prison, but nobody knew how or when. When they found them again, they were back doing the same thing they were doing before, faithfully telling people how they would know for sure they were going to heaven. In frustration they were asking, “Won't you ever shut up?” The answer was, “No.” For the last 2,000 years faithful servants of Christ have been sharing Jesus.

At this time in our church history, we can't meet together in person. So what do we do? We meet on the internet. We can't get together so we go from door to door. We hear the Gospel on radio and TV. We keep preaching the Gospel. When the first local church began to meet together some were delighted, some feared, some hated, some were in disobedience, and others were frustrated. I encourage you, as a believer, wherever you go and whatever you do share the Gospel and you will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 16 – Lesson 6



Faithfulness

Scripture reading Acts 5:27-32

“And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree....And we are his witnesses...”

What an amazing truth! In the midst of persecution when they were told to stop preaching the Gospel, they continued to do what God wanted them to do. Faithfulness is important no matter what the circumstances we face. Anna and I came to Las Vegas forty-two years ago determined to fill Las Vegas with the doctrine of Christ. People often ask, “Why are we so involved in soulwinning? Why do we have the church on the internet? Why do we have KVXL, Christian radio? Why do we teach and preach the Gospel every time we get together? Why have we helped plant other churches in the Las Vegas valley? Why do we send missionaries around the world?” The reason is very simple, we must preach this Gospel. Jesus died, He was buried, He rose from the dead. We must preach this message. It is the only hope for a lost and dying world.

Throughout the twenty centuries of Christianity, God has been faithful and God has used faithful witnesses. The Gospel message is the only hope for your friends, your family, your co-workers, your neighborhood, your school, your city, your state, your nation, and the world. The Apostle Paul said, *“woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!”* (1 Corinthians 9:16).

Presently, we are unable to meet together as a church. We are a church that is dispersed. Let us take this opportunity to share the Gospel everywhere we go. So when we do get back together, we can share with one another how God has used us to as individuals to SHINE for Him.