MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK: Acts 10:43

"To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."



MY NOTES My Insights / My Questions

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Read Acts 8

- 1. Saul persecuted the Christian community. What was their response? Does God sometimes bring difficulties into your life to make you "move!"? What happened?
- 2. Phillip, a Greek speaking Jew (not the Apostle Phillip), was sent by the Holy Spirit to the Samaritans. Jews and Samaritans shared mutual animosity. Why would Phillip go there? What was their response? (Acts 8, 8). Can Christ use us today to break down walls of hostility?
- 3. Phillip was a "rock star" preacher in Samaria. Yet God called him to a remote part of the desert in Israel. Did he go? What happened? Are you ready to go, give up everything, even a flourishing ministry, to follow Jesus?
- Prayer: Lord, fill me with Your Spirit and give me an obedient heart, that I might hear and obey You.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Read Acts 9

- 1. Saul, after his "success" supervising the stoning of Stephen, was pursuing more Christians, men and women. He was "blinded by the light" on the road to Damascus and confronted by Jesus. What is his response? Jesus tells us to love even our enemies and to pray for them. Does that command apply to even someone as destructive and murderous as Saul?
- 2. Ananias received a vision. What was it about? What was Ananias' response? Could he have been walking to his very death by following Jesus' request? Would you have gone?
- 3. What is the Greek name for Tabitha? She was known for her "social ministry". She died. What happened next? To Tabitha? To the whole town?
- Prayer: Lord, give me your Peace when you ask me to do something that, in our opinion, will "not turn our well".

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Read Acts 10

- 1. Cornelius was a "devout man who feared God". Yet he was a Roman military officer. As such, he understood authority. How do we live our Christian faith when put in positions of authority? Will people think that we are "soft" and can be intimidated or bullied because of our faith? Think of at least one important leader today who Is a Christian.
- 2. Peter, being a "good" Jew, was reluctant to take the Good News to the Gentiles. What happened in verses 9-21? What was Peter's immediate response? Have we seen this rashness in Peter before? What is Jesus' response? What does Peter do in verse 29?
- 3. In verse 44, we see what is essentially a Gentile Pentecost (see Acts 2, 1-4). How does this reflect the prophecy in Joel 2:28? Does "all" mean really mean all?
- Prayer: Holy Spirit, we praise you and thank you for loving us, even us Gentiles. Let us spread that love to our neighbors through a kind deed this week.

	
	
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10 Read Acts 11 1. Peter returns to Jerusalem an other believers. What is his de

- 1. Peter returns to Jerusalem and is "called on the carpet" by some of the other believers. What is his defense? The Gospel says to always be ready to give a defense for the hope that is within you (1 Peter 3, 15) your faith in Jesus. Are you ready? Have you had to defend your faith directed actions in front of other Christians?
- 2. Ironically, Peter says, in verse 17, "who was I to argue?". Yet, he did exactly that initially. Did Jesus give Peter a second chance to overcome his doubts? If you doubt God's direction, do you continue to study scripture, pray and listen so that you can gain a clearer understanding?
- 3. Barnabas was sent to Antioch by the church at Jerusalem, the first "missionary" outreach to the Gentiles. What was happening in Antioch? (21). Barnabas needs help so he goes to Tarsus. Who is in Tarsus?
- Prayer: Jesus, place a ministry on my heart this week that I might support them with prayers and, if possible, financial support.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Read Acts 12

- 1. Peter was arrested by Herod Agrippa I. In prison, chained between two guards, Peter was probably preparing to die a martyr's death. What powerful tool was being used to protect him (v5)? Peter is freed and goes to the home of the mother of John Mark. What does Rhoda do when she sees Peter? Has God ever answered your prayer and you didn't believe it when He did? It is like the farmers praying for rain and only one bringing an umbrella!
- 2. Herod, furious about the "escape" by Peter, orders the execution of the guards (v19). Why do political leaders believe themselves so powerful and unaccountable that they feel free to act on their every whim? Do we see that in today's society?
- 3. Herod accepts the praise from the people that only God deserves. How long does Herod live afterwards? He dies from what?
- Prayer: Lord, please keep me humble, towards you and towards others.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Read Acts 13

- 1. The church is growing exponentially. Barnabas partners with Saul to do much missionary work. Barnabas was an encourager. Have you ever needed someone, when times were dark or you were discouraged? Did someone encourage you? How did you respond? Do you think that there were times when Paul was discouraged and Barnabas helped him continue?
- 2. In the trilogy, Lord of the Rings, Frodo was the "ring bearer", a terrible burden. About to give up, his encourager, Samwise Gamgee, told him "I can't carry it for you, but I can carry you" and lifted him up to continue the journey. Is Jesus like this in your life? Do you have any friends like this? Are you a friend like this? (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKIgv8AhffA)
- 3. We see our first "revival". Paul gives an amazing sermon. Well received (44). Paul and Barnabas clearly understand God's "mission statement" for the Jews (Genesis 12:3) a light to lighten the Gentiles. What was their response in verse 48? What could be better news?
- Prayer: Lord, lift my spirit up in praise as I consider all that You have done for me.

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