

**ACTS QUIET TIME
JANUARY 2018**



INDIAN CHURCH OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

Today we begin reading the Book of Acts. Acts focuses much on Outreach. However if it were not for the InReach and UpReach found in this book that existed prior to the OutReach there would have been no productive Outreach.

UpReach, InReach, OutReach. Each describes a critical element of faith. They provide the basic goals for a church or the foundation of an individual Christian life.

UpReach is my relationship with God.

He is my Creator, my Father, my Origin, my Motivation and my Fuel. He is the Beginning of my life and the very reason that I live. It must express itself in the next two relationships, or it is not real.

InReach is my relationship with other believers.

Sometimes we call InReach “fellowship” or “church” .” We are not designed to be alone in our faith. This is why InReach is an essential place of nurturing, sharing and teaching, as God utilizes a variety of lives ... women and men, old and young, single and married. And together our faith that began in UpReach, will deepen and mature through the “one-another-ness” of InReach, as God prepares us for OutReach.

OutReach is my only other human relationship.

It describes where we all began – outside. God found us there and brought us inside the door of faith. But now that we are inside, OutReach describes the mission we share with the Father. Now, He reaches out, through us, to rescue others who are outside of faith.

UpReach ... InReach ... OutReach. Together they are the shape of faith.

Jan 1st 2018

READ ACTS 1

Vs 4-7

Note the term "wait." How patient are we for God to move in his own time?

They had to just wait not knowing how much time or how many days it would involve.

How willing are we to wait? Do we have patience with God? Or do we try to force things that God may not be ready for?

What type of heart does it take to "wait upon the Lord"?

Do you and I really believe God is in control? (**compare Psalms 130:5-6**).

Here in these verses we also find God's plan/mission for the Apostles and his church. From Jerusalem to ends of the earth.

What is God's special plan for your life? What will it be today? Tomorrow? Next week? Next year? How does the Spirit want to work in you?

What are your spiritual gifts? How are you using it for God?

Is your heart one of humility to search out and find that special place and function in his church (**Rom. 12:4**)?

Vs 10-11 -Do you look forward to the coming back of Jesus? Can you say with all your heart, "Come, Lord Jesus!" (**Rev. 22:20**).

Vs 12-26 -What are the qualifications for Apostles listed there?

Is there anyone who fits those requirements today?

What was the specific purpose and duty of the Twelve Apostles (**verse 22**).

How important is the resurrection to you and me? Could you live without it?

One special verse of Inreach in this chapter is verse 14, "*They all joined together constantly in prayer.....*"

Why do you think they did this? What do you think they were praying for?

How constant are you in prayer?

What made it possible for them to be "*joined together*"?

How can we maximize this joining together in prayer and other ways in our church and our Family groups? Plan to do this more and more this year.

Prayer: Write down, make plans and pray for ways to be joined together constantly in prayer and other ways for Jesus in 2018.

2nd January 2018

READACTS 2

Inreach- Vs 1 What type of togetherness was there among the disciples?

How unified is my and your heart to work together, to wait together on the LORD and his promises?

Vs 14 - Since it is only Peter that seems to give this sermon, why do you think the terms "with the eleven" are stated? How unified are we today in giving out Jesus' message? What type of heart does it take to be unified?

Vs 42-47

a. They devoted themselves to

- (1) the apostles' teaching (God's Word)
- (2) to the fellowship (sharing in each others lives)
- (3) to the breaking of bread (the Lord's Supper)
- (4) to prayer

Are you and I "devoted" to *all* four of these *all the time* or just occasionally? If not, what is it in our hearts that keeps us from this?

Is there any such thing as solo Christianity or a solitary faith?

They sold their possessions and goods to help *those in the church in need*- When was the last time you or I did this?

Do I restrict to whom I give? Or am I free to give to any brother or sister in need?

Do I look for needs? Do I see them?

Is it my heart to at least be in contact with one other disciple each day?

What disciple(s) will you or I contact today? There are so many

ways to be in contact today: Personal visits, phone calls, Whatsapp , e-mail, etc.

Is it your heart eager, glad and sincere to eat *with* brothers and sisters in your homes?

Prayer: Ask God to give us a heart to love *one another*, be loyal to *each other*, to be with *one another*, to share with *one another*, to meet with *one another*, to give to those in need *among us*, to have daily contact with *one another*, to be devoted to the Word of God *with one another*, to be devoted to the *fellowship*, to be devoted to prayer *with one another*, to be devoted to *sharing communion* with one another.

January 3rd, 2018

Read Acts 3

Peter and John were going to the temple to pray *together*.

Peter did not take credit alone for what God did through him.

Even though John did not do the healing himself, he was included in everything.

What I am seeing is that the disciples had one purpose and that was to bear witness to Jesus as a group in partnership with each other.

They prayed together, worked together in unison, they included each other in everything

Do we work together as a unit to glorify God no matter what part we may play?

Would not there have been a temptation for Peter to take credit that God was working through him not John?

Wouldn't this have been a time when Peter might have glorified himself in what he did?

What type of heart does this take not to glorify one's self?

Do we have humility? Or are we jealous of other's gifts and talents?

Do we get prideful about what we can do and others cannot?

Do we give credit to God or to ourselves? Do we feel left out because God does not use us in a certain way or can we give glory to God in the way he does choose to use us?

Are we a true family, a true body in which each member does his or her part and the glory goes to God from us all *as a unit*?

Are we in it for the glory of God or for our glory?

Do we think our ministry is more important than all other

ministries in the church and cause others in the body to feel unimportant?

We are all part of one another, aren't we? Can we glorify God and appreciate the talents of each one (and the way God uses each person) to serve our Creator and Redeemer and Lord?

Vs 19- "*times of refreshing*" comes when I repent and turn to God. Are you living in the land of repentance , refreshing and contentment.

Prayer: Pray that today we all honor one another as part of the body, see whatever *one* does as what *we* do for Jesus together, and allow times of refreshing and contentment to be in our lives as a testimony to others.

JANUARY 4th, 2018

READ Acts 4

Outreach

Vs 2-18-Peter and John are arrested and taken to the Sanhedrin (the ruling body of the Jews)

Can you imagine what type of impact that would have here in any large city if in just a few short days a church sprouted and over 10,000 people were now attending?

What would happen if that were the case in your or my city?

What type of media coverage would take place?

What would be the talk on the street and in the office?

Would there be any fear, especially among religious leaders as their people began to flock to this new group?

Lets memorize: "*Salvation is found in no one else for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved*" (Vs12).

What does that mean for us and evangelism and helping each other be faithful?

Do you and I really believe that Jesus is the **ONLY** way?

Inreach

Peter and John were *together* throughout the whole ordeal with the Sanhedrin. The whole church prayed *together* to God (**vs. 24**). The believers were in *one mind and heart* (**vs. 32**). They *shared everything* (**vs. 33**).

How much are we willing to pray together?

When is the last time you or I prayed with someone else?

When was the last time we prayed for boldness to speak God's message to others?

Who do you need to go and get reconciled with and become one minded with?

Can you set up a day this week to make it happen?

Is our heart eager to do these things or is it fearful and resistant?

What are you and I willing to do to help the needy in our church?

Would we sell land or houses or other things?

Prayer: Write down and pray for at least one area of repentance so that we could imitate the hearts of our first century brothers and sisters?

January 5th, 2018

Acts 5

The Apostles rejoiced because they had been counted worthy to suffer disgrace for the Jesus (**vs. 41**).

Is our heart like there's? Would we rejoice if in their situation?

How would or do we react when we are persecuted or looked down upon because of our stand for Jesus?

They exclaimed "*We must obey God rather than men*" (vs. 29).

Is our heart set this firmly that we would always choose to obey God over men when the two come into conflict?

Inreach

Vs 1-11 Why do you think God took the lives of Ananias and Sapphira?

What was the church afraid of?

What HEART issues caused Ananias and Sapphira to do this?

1. Love of money
2. Love for praise

Both of these focus on one's self. It is *using* others to get something for "me".

How must God have felt to be used by Ananias and Sapphira?

Do you and I ever have either or both of these heart issues?

Do you fight this? Or do you give in to self glorification and the love of money?

Out of these two loves (love for money and praise) come deceit and lying.

Let us examine our hearts. Where are we in these things?

What do we really care about? What is our focus in our giving?

Is there any hint of self glory? It will help each of us to truly communicate and experientially know our hearts of love and

good will *to one another and to God*. It is a key to unity and being like Christ.

Prayer: Pray and take help if our love for money and praise is clouding our salvation. Confess and repent if there is deceit and lying that we will be accountable for.

January 6th, 2018

Read Acts 6

Vs 1-7 -Why did the Apostles have them choose Greek speaking Jewish Christians to take care of this?

What type of heart attitude did the Apostles have to handle this situation in the way they did?

What does this say about having special ministries to different language and culture groups in our church?

What groups might this include in our church?

Who better to take care of the needs than those who notice and share the need and have the talent to help out?

Where do you and I fit in?

What need do you and I see in our church? What talent do you or I have that we can use to meet those needs? Are you ready to help or only be part of the grumbling critical lot- seeing the needs but not willing to help out.

Prayer: Identify at least one special need of people in our church and volunteer using our gifts and talents *inreaching* with love to them. Pray that we will do this selflessly.

January 7th, 2018

Read Acts 7

Vs 51-What does it mean to be stiff-necked?

How do we know when we are that way?

What does it mean to be uncircumcised in hearts and ears?

Is your or my heart uncircumcised or circumcised? How do you know?

How is the Holy Spirit resisted? Do we ever resist Him?

What might some signs be that we could see in our lives to keep us from resisting the Holy Spirit?

Are you and I led by the Spirit? How do you know?

Do we really want to be led by the Spirit? How does that take place?

If we were there in Stephen's time, would we have been ones who would have stoned him?

Or would we have surrendered to God and supported him?

Are we willing to die for our faith and suffer for doing good?

Are we able to pray for our enemies like Stephen did when he said, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them" (vs. 60)?

What type of heart does it take to do this?

Prayer: Pray that God fills us with his Holy Spirit so that we can preach his word boldly, full of wisdom and grace like Stephen till we die.

January 8th, 2018

Read Acts 8

We see two hearts

A. The Heart of Simon the sorcerer(vss. 1-25):

His heart needed to become right with God (**vs. 21**)

He needed to repent (**vs. 22**)

His heart was full of bitterness and captive to sin (**vs. 23**)

Where is our heart today?

Do we mirror any of these things?

Do we and are we committed to capture every thought and make it obedient to Christ (**II Cor. 10:5**)?

What thoughts have you or I tolerated lately in our minds that are contrary to God's will and need to be captured?

B. The Heart of the Ethiopian (vs. 26-40):

- Are we eager and willing to go long distances if necessary to worship and serve God? Or is there a certain distance we draw the line on and won't go? (**vs. 27**)

- Do we have a heart of continuing to search the Scriptures to get closer to God? Are we humble and want others in our lives to help us understand and be like Jesus? Are our ears open to hear and our hearts ready to receive the message? (**Vs 28-35**)

- Are we eager to respond immediately to whatever God through his word calls us to respond to? (**Vs. 36-39**)

- Is our heart joyful and grateful to God? (**vs. 29**).

Which heart do you and I have? Which heart do we want to have?

Prayer: Let us pray and work on our hearts to cultivate the heart of the Ethiopian today!

January 9th ,2018

Read Acts 9

Upreach

Vs 1-32- What does it mean to live in the fear of the Lord? Are you and I doing it?

Is there anything God has been (or is) doing to help you get back on track? What is his plan for you? Are you fighting him? Are we listening? Is there a light shining in our life as a message from God? What might it be?

Inreach

vs. 32-43 As we love and serve one another (as Peter did with Aeneas and Tabitha, and Tabitha did with the poor) what happens in the world? Doesn't the world respond when it sees the power of love and the Holy Spirit in us and our relationships?

How are we allowing the Holy Spirit to work through us as we engage in the ministry of inreach to one another?

Outreach

When we focus on Upreach and Inreach it will lead to Outreach and church will grow in numbers.

Prayer: For Our Fellowship in our families and Family Groups to cause His church to multiply.

January 10th ,2018

Read Acts 10

The gospel had reached the Jews and Samaria, now it was being expanded to the gentiles.

Vs 2 What does this say about those who are God fearers in our world today and but not yet disciples?

Can their prayers be heard by God? Are they saved? What is lacking?

Do we approach them with a superiority complex that we are better than they or a humble compassionate helping servant heart?

What type of heart do we communicate to the lost?

Do we see them as better than us?

How hard do you think this was for Peter to accept his error?

What traditions are hard for you to change today?

Are there any barriers that we have that keep us from reaching out to non-Christians or even doing **inreach** to Christians?

Do you have any person or people that you would not be able to associate with? Who might it be? Why might it be?

What must change in your heart to overcome this? Do you want to overcome it?

Peter knows that even though they had received the Spirit in a special way that they still had to be baptized with water (**vs. 46**).

How important is baptism?

Can a person do without baptism by just believing?

What does baptism in water do?

Let us preach the Word correctly in season and out of season and hold firmly to God's plan!

January 11th, 2018

Read Acts 11

Inreach

Vs 22-30 -They took time out of their traveling evangelist efforts to help nurture young Christians.

Are we taking time out to nurture our people in the Lord to help them and encourage them to mature? Is our heart dedicated to maturing or just to converting?

What talent(s) do you have to help out in this?

Who do you see in your Bible Talk that needs help with maturing that you could use to help? Can you start helping today?

Vs 27-30- What type of heart does it take to respond to need, especially need among brothers and sisters in another church? Is it our heart to do that?

What does it mean to give "according to one's ability?"

How is it determined? Do you and I do that?

Do we have faith in our leaders that they will use it properly like those in Antioch must have had toward those in Jerusalem?

Was it trust in leaders or faith in God coupled with compassion that drove their giving?

Who do we see in need in another church-

Nagar,Kolhapur,Solapur, Aurangabad that we can help with?

Prayer : Ask God so that we may have the heart to nurture young (and older) Christians as well as to give according to our ability to help disciples out in other churches.

January 12th, 2018

Read Acts 12

Why do you think the disciples were astonished to see Peter?

Vs 16

Did they not have faith?

Do we have faith that God will do miracles in our lives and the life of the church? Are we amazed when He answers prayers for us or do we try to explain away miracles?

How do you feel when you see an answered prayer?

Is there wonder? Is there humility? Is there gratefulness?

Is our heart alive with joy, wonder, and praise?

Herod wanted to please the Jews so he arrested Peter. **(Vs. 1-2)**.

What type of heart did Herod have? Who did he want to please? Was it only the Jews? Could it also have been to bring attention and glory to him?

Does our heart ever seek attention and praise? Do we seek to be exalted before others? How high do we really want to be exalted? Would God ever strike us down if we did not give him *all* glory?

(Vs 23)

When are we seeking of self-glory? Why is self-glory evil?

Who deserves all glory and praise (**Rev. 4:11**)?

Prayer: Ask God that we give freedom to the new self in our hearts to give all praise to Him every moment of our lives.

January 13, 2018

Read Acts 13

Paul and Barnabas generally go to the Jewish synagogues in every city to preach first (**Vs 14**). What do we look for when we are sharing the Gospel?

The Jewish people became jealous of Paul and Barnabas.

Why do you think the Jews were jealous? Do you or I ever get jealous of someone? Is there any jealousy in our lives that is blinding us from the truth?

Paul strongly opposes the false prophet Bar-Jesus (also called Elymas the Sorcerer) (**Vs 7-11**).

Do we have a heart to oppose false teaching if we see it in our lives, our spouses, our brother or sister's life, or others? Or do we just "let it go"?

Vs 46-51- Paul and Barnabas "*shook the dust from their feet in protest against them*" and left the city (Vs 51).

What does it mean to "shake the dust off one's feet?"

Is it right to "protest against" others at times as it says they did here?

What do you think was in Paul's and Barnabas' hearts? Anger? Sadness? Compassion? Conviction?

Did they sin here or did they do an act of righteousness?

What attitude and actions did Jesus have toward his persecutors in the Gospels?

What should be our response and heart when the message of salvation we bring to others is not accepted by them?

Prayer : Ask God to help us (1) find reasons and opportunities to share the Gospel, (2) be prepared for religious leaders to

become jealous of us when we share the gospel, (3)be determined to have a heart conviction to strongly oppose false doctrine and those who try to turn people away from the truth, and (4) have a godly heart toward those who persecute us and resist the Gospel. Isn't all of this part of what it means to have a heart of Outreach?

January 14th, 2018

Read Acts 14

Upreach

Vs 8-18 They heal a lame person who "had faith to be healed" (what do you think that faith was?).

Paul and Barnabas glorified God in heaven. Do we ever try to steal glory from God or from others? Paul and Barnabas allowed God to work through them to do miraculous signs and wonders. Vs 3 says the main purpose of miracles was to confirm God's word. Does God confirm his message today through miracles or did that cease after it was firmly confirmed in the first century and His word written down in the New Testament?

Do we still wish for having the gift to do miracles today?

Would miracles confirm the message today or just amaze us and satisfy our desires?

Is there a message for our hearts if we have this desire? What is in the heart of those who seek signs?

Inreach

Vs. 23-Elders were overseers and shepherds who took care and guided the flock. Why do you think God wanted so many elders in each church?

Do we have hearts to take care of those we help become Christians?

Do we support those with the gift of shepherding and oversight in their ministries?

Do we want all disciples to be taken care of?

Are you and I sharing what God is doing through us to others in our church?

What has God done for you lately? Do our eyes see what He is doing or have we become dull in our eyesight? What can you share?

How have you been encouraged by what He has done for others who shared with you?

Outreach

Paul was stoned and left for dead and yet he goes back to the city(**Vs 19**)

Would you and I have given up preaching the Word if we had been stoned?

How tenacious are we? How dedicated are we to helping the lost be saved? How strong is your and my heart for the lost?

Prayer: Ask God that we gain this heart of fire for God's word to be spread!

January 15th, 2018

Read Acts 15

Why do you think the Jews were pressing for circumcision?

Were they misguided? Were they tied to tradition? What might have been in their hearts?

Were they afraid that Moses and the Law was going to be considered unimportant?

What is in our hearts today when we hear false issues regarding God's plan of salvation?

Do we have a heart that "gives in" to false teaching or do we have a heart that stands firm against false teaching on salvation?

Who made the decision as what to do to solve the problem?

(Vs 22)

Why did not just the Apostles make the decision themselves alone?

Do we make decisions without consultation with others?

Why did they have the elders involved?

What type of leadership heart is seen here in handling this issue?

Note that not only the apostles and elders were involved, but that eventually the whole church it seems decided on it, or at least had a part in how it was handled (**vs. 22**).

Why would having to be circumcised and being required to obey the law of

Moses to be saved have **"troubled their minds"**?

What were the four things they asked the Gentiles to follow?

Are our minds troubled when we hear people preaching salvation doctrines different than we believe? Why do you think that is so?

Are you troubled about things like false teachings on baptism,

Holy Spirit, etc.,? Have you studied the Scriptures to make sure what you believe about salvation is correct. Are you a true Berean, one who has his or her own firm convictions based on the Bible?

Do you and I trouble other's minds or do we heal them?

Prayer: Pray that we have a heart (1) to preach and teach God's true salvation plan, (2) to handle situations like this as the Jerusalem leaders did by involving many disciples, and (3) to give mind-healing direction so that people are not troubled.

January 16th 2018

Read Acts 16

From **Acts 15:36 to 18:22** we find Paul's second missionary journey.

Why do you think Paul went back through some of the cities he had already gone through before? What type of heart did he have for those young Christians?

What heart do you have for young Christians?

Paul and Barnabas, at the beginning of their journey, have a dispute over taking John Mark with them on their journey because he had deserted them in Pamphylia on the first missionary journey (**13:13 and 15:38**). As a result, they separate and Barnabas takes John Mark along and goes to preach in Cyprus while Paul takes Silas.

Why do you think Paul and Barnabas could not work this out? Why was Barnabas so desirous of taking Mark along? Why do Christians have disagreements?

Paul and John Mark seem to become reconciled later and Paul says he is "useful" for him in his ministry (see II Tim. 4:11). Who was right in this case? Who was wrong? Does it matter? Could both be right and both wrong?

What type of heart does it take to continue to try to work things out and not give up?

What is in your or my heart?

What type of devotion and heart would it take for Timothy to have allowed circumcision to have been done to him? (Vs 3) Why do you think Paul thought it necessary?

The jailor of Philippi was converted after Paul and Silas were

thrown into prison. They were severely flogged and put in stocks.
(Vs 23-24) How would we have reacted if this was done to us?

Paul and Silas are found praying and singing hymns to God in the midst of it all (vs. 25)

How intent were they to use every opportunity to witness for Jesus? Do we do that?

What type of heart would it take to be able to worship God in the midst of all this? Could you and I do this?

Prayer: Pray that God gives us a unity that allows us to live in grace and submission to each other and a devotion to Him that will win souls even when we are dying.

January 17th ,2018

Read Acts 17

Inreach - The brothers stepped in to help out Paul and Silas to protect them (vs. 10) How quick are we to protect our brothers and sisters from harm or the anger of others or from other things that might come upon them? How much are we in each other's lives to help out?

Outreach -Paul's boldness and passion to get the word of the Gospel out. He worked hard going to the synagogues (**vss. 2, 10, 17**) to explain and prove things about Jesus (**vs. 3**) and persuade the people to join them (**vs. 4**) and a large number of people followed (**vs. 4**). This was in spite of the jealous Jews who would round up "bad character" men (vs. 5) to cause trouble for him (**vs. 5, 13**). What drove Paul to do this?

What caused him to be "greatly distressed to see" the city full of idols (**vs. 16**)?

How distressed are you and I to see all the idols in our cities? Or do we see idols?

Is it true that the more we slip into idolatry ourselves the less we are distressed about it and the less concerned we are about it?

What idols are we devoted to today?

Are we willing to get that preparation to persuade people to become Christians?

What is your gift and opportunity? Are you using it to bring the message of Jesus to others? What can we do to be more motivated today?

Upreach -Whenever Paul preached he would talk about the resurrection"(**vss. 3, 18, 31**). Does it give glory to God to talk

about Jesus' resurrection? Does it keep glory from God to fail to talk about it?

Do we talk about the coming resurrection for all men?

How important is God's work of resurrecting Jesus from the dead to you and me?

How important is *our* resurrection to us? Do you and I share it with others openly or only with those with whom we study?

Are you like the Athenians –philosophical or like the Bereans-noble?

Prayer: Pray that God will use us to be active today in *Inreach* to protect one another, in *Outreach* speaking boldly to the lost, and in *Upreach*, giving glory to God for his mighty power in resurrecting Jesus and us from the dead!

January 18th, 2018

Read Acts 18

Acts 18 tells of the last part of Paul's second missionary journey (which ends when he comes to Antioch in verse 22). The third missionary journey begins in verse 23 with Paul going back into Galatia and Phrygia and other places. Before this however, in chapter 18, we find Paul staying a year and a half in Corinth (**vs. 11**) preaching the word.

Paul's heart seems to be that, if he needed to, he would do whatever it took to support himself in ministry of the Word. There is a place for being supported full time financially in the ministry of preaching the word.

We must all see that God has a ministry for us too and that sometimes it might be fully financially supported and other times it might not. Each of us however must see ourselves in full time ministry in the sense that we all are working for Jesus all the time wherever we are.

However, the more people who can free up time to serve God with their spiritual gifts of preaching the Word and other talents, the more they can do for Jesus .

Do you see your jobs as a means to do ministry (which means "service") to God and the church and as means to advance the Gospel?

Prayer: Pray that we can strive to imitate Paul and rejoice in the Lord always counting it a privilege to serve Jesus in whatever circumstance we find ourselves in today.

January 19th ,2018

Read Acts 19

Acts 19 finds Paul preaching and teaching for at least 2 years and 3 months in Ephesus (vss. 8-10). His preaching and teaching was so effective that *“all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia (modern day Turkey) heard the word of the Lord”* (vs. 10). That is incredible! In three years Paul from Ephesus had spread the word to a large area the size of a large part of Turkey!

What an incredible Outreach chapter this is!

Can we do it in three years in our city? Well it is possible. How did he do it?

1. He held to the plan of salvation. (Vs 1-7)

Do we hold firmly and teach clearly the true plan of salvation like Paul did here?

Are we concerned that people don't really have the Holy Spirit?

2. Paul argued “persuasively about the kingdom of God” (19:8).

Do we know how to persuasively share about the Kingdom of God. What is the Kingdom?

How do you argue persuasively? Are we willing to learn how to do this?

Are we willing to learn and support the learning of others to do this? How grounded are you and I to defend and advance the faith in our world today?

3. Paul took his disciples with him and had discussions *daily* in the school of Tyrannus (vs.9).

What is our plan? What is like the school of Tyrannus in our day?

Could it be our college campuses/our office canteens/our homes/our parks?

4. Paul made such an impact that the silversmith, Demetrius (who made silver shrines for the Ephesian god Artemis), was in danger of losing his reputation and business and Artemis was in danger of being robbed of “her divine majesty” (**vss. 23-29**)!

How impactful is our witness? How impactful do we want it to be in our city?

Prayer: Let us pray for good spiritual impact and brace ourselves for the persecution that will come.

January 20th, 2018

Read Acts 20

Acts 20 finds Paul traveling through Macedonia, Greece and Philippi and then to Troas, Assos, Mitylene, Kios, and Miletus on his way to arrive in Jerusalem by the day of Pentecost (**Vs. 17**).

Verse 7 "On the first day of the week we came together to break bread."

This is one of the main verses in the NT (**along with I Cor. 11:17-26 and early church history**) that show us that the church met *together* to break bread first day of the week, i.e., *every Sunday*.

It was to remember Jesus, his life, death, and resurrection through the Lord's Supper.

What do you and I come to our church gathering for on Sundays?

Is it primarily to remember Jesus? Is it just tradition for you?

Do we come to be entertained? How do you know?

Where is our heart?

Does the Lord's Supper ever become routine to you or I? What does that indicate about our relationship with God? How can we make it fresh again?

Vs 35 Jesus said, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*"

Why did Paul say this to the *elders*?

Was he giving them the charge that by their hard work they needed to help the weak and needy by giving?

Do we all practice Jesus' words?

Do we focus ourselves on giving or taking? Do we plan to give more and more?

What disciple(s) can you and I give to today?

(Vs. 25, 38) Why do you think the elders were grieved? Do we

have such a deep relationship with each other that we grieve when disciples leave us?

Prayer: Pray that God change our hearts to connect with each other earnestly and to be mighty givers in the fellowship.

January 21, 2018

Read Acts 21

In Acts 21, Paul, on his way to Jerusalem, completes his third missionary journey.

Just think, in 15 years Paul and others had planted many churches, healed many people, and taught thousands about Jesus! What will we have allowed God to do through us 15 years from now?

Are you getting prepared right now? Are you getting equipped? How old are you? What are your plans and hopes for serving Jesus in the next 15 years? Do you have a dream? Are you allowing God to give you a dream for your life?

Do we want to make the most impact for Jesus as possible even if it means we might die? What type of heart do we have? How selfless are we?

For you who are young, begin now to surrender completely to God and see what He will do in your life for him.

Don't wait! Don't delay! God has exciting things for you right now no matter what age you or I are. He has a plan for you.

Are we willing to spread the gospel even to those who want to kill us? (Vs 11)

Prayer: Pray that we can surrender to Jesus with the passion of Paul. Pray for plans for your life to glorify God. Pray that every decision that you make will move God's kingdom forward.

January 22nd, 2018

Read Acts 22

Vs 1-21 Paul sharing his testimony as if his conversion happened yesterday. (Compare it with Acts 9:1-18)

His testimony was shared as a story.

We have a story to tell the next generation.

Are we sharing our testimony today while we evangelise?

Vs 22 Paul's courage in the face of shouting crowd baying for his blood is amazing.

What are your pressure points today in the places that you frequent?

What stops you from preaching?

What are you afraid of?

Are we prepared to defend our hope, belief and faith in Jesus?

From here on till Paul's death in Rome he defended his faith before many authorities not to save his life but to try to convert them to Christianity. He was looking at these situations as opportunities for evangelism.

Prayer: Remember and write down your testimony. Pray that God takes us to places and people where we can share our testimony proudly and preach Jesus boldly even when we are facing death.

January 23rd, 2018

Read Acts 23

Vs 1- What is good conscience?

Can we claim that we have fulfilled our duty to God in all good conscience to this day?

What are some areas of your life where your conscience is guilty?

We are not perfect. But if we confess our sins Jesus will keep us pure and holy(**1 John 1:5-10**). We will have fellowship with him and other disciples.

Vs 11-How is Jesus speaking to you today as to the purpose and destiny of your life? Are you fulfilling his dreams or yours?

Vs 12-35 – Paul was divinely protected by Jesus against all plots to kill him.

God was saving him up for his defense and preaching in Rome.

What are some ways God has rescued you? Write it down.

Why is God giving us this life? What are we making out of all the times he saved us and protected us?

Do you believe that God, just as he protected Paul, will use all human authorities to protect us as he is the sovereign ruler?

Prayer: Confess if there is anything that is causing your conscience to be impure. Pray for God to reveal your destiny to you today. Thank God for all the ways he has saved you and protected you.

January 24th, 2018

Read Acts 24

Vs 14-16 Paul gives a defense for his life. His trust in the Holy Scriptures, his Hope in Resurrection, and his testimony of righteousness and clean conscience.

What is our defense preparedness?

How do we stand in believing and obeying the Bible?

The older we get how is our Hope in God's plan?

Is your belief in resurrection becoming more and more real as you get older?

Have you been slandered and gossiped about? Have you been misunderstood?

There was no one from the church to help Paul out.

Is our Upreach so powerful that we can withstand all accusations and trials that will come our way?

Vs 25-When Paul talked about Righteousness, Self control and Judgment Felix was afraid and put off the hearing.

Are their areas that needs repentance in your life you are putting off for a more convenient time or are making excuses for?

Prayer: Pray that God reveals areas of your life where there is unbelief and areas that need repentance. Ask God and his people for help and repentance.

January 25th 2018

READ ACTS 25-26

UPREACH

Paul's defense before Festus and King Agrippa yielded more evidence that God was protecting Paul and preparing him to go to Rome.

The Jews accused him (Vs 7-9) of many serious charges. Though Festus was favorable to the Jews yet he couldn't do anything to Paul except send him to Rome.

How do you think God has been protecting your life even when the things have been adverse in your life all this while? How has he provided help for you?

OUTREACH

To Agrippa Paul shared his conversion story again (25:23- 26:23) which is the third time in Acts Paul's conversion story is shared.

Why did he share his testimony to Agrippa? (**Vs 25-29**)

Why should we be sharing our testimony to people?

Vs 25- The story of Jesus and the Resurrection is True and Reasonable.

We need to learn to share the resurrection story and the reasons for our Hope with gentleness and respect (**1 Peter 3:15**).

Are there areas of the Bible that you are not confident to share?

Are there areas of the gospel story and the Bible that you find is not believable?

Ask those questions today. Get those answers from people you know. Increase your faith so that your life in the footsteps of Jesus will bring glory to Him and save many who witness it.

Unless we are clear in our faith and believe it as "True and

Reasonable” our Outreach will be limited.

PRAYER: Pray for areas of your belief system that is still immature. Ask the older brothers and sisters for help. Ask God for help to mature you and mature your faith.

JANUARY 26th, 2018

READ ACTS 27

INREACH

Vs 9-11 The ship carrying Paul sailed for Rome despite Paul's warnings.

Are we in the habit of taking many advices (from people with the spirit) before great endeavors or do we look for popular majority decisions?

Who are your advisors today?

Vs 12-25 Who is there in our fellowship who gives us courage in the midst of storm?

Who is the person you turn to when you are in the midst of storm and you have given up all hope(Vs 20)?

UPREACH

How can you be a courage giver in the midst of problems and storms of life?

(Vs 23-25)Paul shares the key here- in the midst of storm he was busy spending time with God and his angel.

God repeated his words with Paul.

What is your mode of coping with storms of life- financial crisis, traqedies, deaths, loss of health, sickness, loss of job, rejections?

Do you meditate and memorise his promises?

Do the promises of God repeat in your heart as assurances during times of crisis?

How many people survived? Vs 37

Did anyone perish? Vs 44

Throughout the chapter at every turn how do you think God intervened to save the men? Who was God's spokesman? How can you be God's spokesman to save the people around you?

PRAYER: Pray that God can use you as the calm spokesman to your family members and your people while the world goes from one disaster to another. Pray that your trust in His promises assures you more and more as you lead many to salvation.

JANUARY 27th ,2018

READ ACTS 28

INREACH

Vs 1-6 How quickly did the people of Malta change their views about Paul from calling him a murderer to calling him God?

Do we judge people so quickly? Do we assume the worst about people when we meet them?

Vs 7-10 What role has hospitality to play in ministry?

What encouraged even the great apostle Paul(Vs 15)?

What will encourage us if we are down and discouraged?

(Hebrews 3:12-13, Hebrews 10:24-25)

UPREACH

Paul should have died as vipers are poisonous. But he didn't because God was not finished with him yet.

How quickly do you give up? How confident are you that whatever God has begun with you he will complete?

OUTREACH

Paul defended himself finally at Rome where he was under house arrest and was martyred.

Vs 23-31

How did Paul end his last days?

What did he do in his place of house arrest?

Why do you think God has put you in this city in this time and with the opportunities you have? What are you doing with it?

PRAYER: Pray that God uses you for the reason He created you. May he continue to use you to write yet another chapter to the book of Acts as the story of his church marches on till Jesus comes.