

Week (May 11-17)

Acts 13:13-17:34



Daily Breakdown of the Readings

Monday [Acts 1:8:1-17](#)

Tuesday [Acts 18:18-28](#)

Wednesday [Acts 19:1-20](#)

Thursday [Acts 19:21-41](#)

Friday [Acts 20:1-16](#)

Saturday [Acts 20:17-38](#)

Sunday catch up day!

Key Passages

Acts 18:9-10

Acts 19:4

Act 19:11-12

Acts 19:20

Acts 20:18-35



Notes

- As you read remember the wider context of the Greco-Roman world in which the apostles lived and in which the text is written. Religion wasn't Judaism (later Christianity) or Atheism. The Greek/Roman Gods were worshiped. Eastern religions had been in existence for centuries as had Celtic practices in the northern most reaches of the empire. Religion was vast and varied and contrary to what some historians would like us to believe, there was religious freedom. The Jews were allowed to practice their faith in its many sects in the Roman Empire.
- Remember that persecution was localized. All of the accounts of persecution that we have in our readings this week were localized. None of this persecution was ordered by the Emperor. The apostles angered local residents and were persecuted by the local residents.
- Travel in the ancient world was a perilous and expensive undertaking. To travel as much as some of the apostles and disciples did in Acts required a great amount of faith and finance.
- When reading about miracles and the work of the Holy Spirit in Acts don't parallel your life to the lives of the apostles and the disciples. The Holy Spirit is still doing and miracles are still happening. We shouldn't expect God to meet our expectations of miracles. We think of raising someone from the dead as a miracle (and it is), but what if we thought of a blade of grass as an equal miracle. Perhaps, the problem isn't that God isn't still doing miracles, but that we don't see the miracles around us.

Questions

1. Have you ever been afraid to tell someone about your faith? How did you handle the situation?
2. Think about your earliest faith teachers. What is the first story you remember hearing? How did they tell the story?
3. Now think of yourself as a faith teacher. What is the first story you remember telling? How did you tell the story? Whom did you tell it to?
4. Have you ever brushed a Bible story under the carpet because it makes you uncomfortable? What story? Why did it make you uncomfortable? Take some time this week to revisit that story.
5. The Holy Spirit is active in Acts. The Spirit gives people authority, works miracles, snatches Philip away, and gives visions. Where do you see the Spirit at work in our faith community?
6. Sings, wonders, miracles– we don't often talk about these things as Lutherans. I want to challenge us this week to be open to seeing God's signs, wonders, and miracles in our daily life.