

The Jesus Experience: STEADFAST

Main Scripture: Acts 2: 42; Acts 5:12 - 42

Supporting Scriptures: Acts 2:32; John 6:38; John 7:14-18; Matthew 7: 21; John 6:40; Hebrews 5:8;

Notes:

Some of us may be tired of what I have to say but to be honest I reflect on the ministry of Jesus and I was thinking that it doesn't matter what the crowd thinks what matters is that the Name of the Lord is glorified. Paul describes this as being safe.

Tonight we will look at the life of Jesus and then we will look at Acts 2:42

Steadfast: firmly fixed in place; not subject to change.

The church (a group of Gods elect) continued (trapped in a cycle) steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine. The church is established on the rock of the word. We know that the word will never change. It doesn't matter how this world changes or the variety of cultures the church remains steadfast in doctrine.

Doctrine: teaching

The apostles were given their doctrine from Jesus Christ as they were sent by Jesus to preach his word.

Acts 2:32 - you saw the miracles and signs that Jesus performed. He wasn't hiding. You could find him performing miracles and was the top story of every day. These signs demonstrated to us that he was approved of God.

When we look a bit deeper - if we are connected to Christ, if we represent the body of Christ, it means that we continue in the activity of Christ in doctrine, and also God will show his approval of His people by demonstrating signs wonders, and miracles. Not an approval of an individual but the approval of the body of Christ. Jesus sees one body. we have many members anointed in various gifts and calling but just one body.

Why was Jesus approved? Yes we know he was God manifested in the flesh but here we see in the scripture

John 6:38 - John writes I have come down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of him that sent me. - we begin to understand that in performing the will of God, God will show his approval to any corporate body.

When the apostles were whipped they asked God for boldness to show His approval on the message we are bringing.

The Jesus experience has everything to do with the Jesus message

I used to go about pitching their tent and I noticed something that my uncle would do. I thought he would advertise the tent ministry that would go on on his radio broadcast and I asked him why don't you advertise and he said that's not the ministry of Jesus. Jesus will advertise with signs and wonders. People will know it's a Jesus movement when he stamps his approval. So he would start talking about Jesus and then he would tell the people to bring the deaf and the blind and I see where Jesus would approve his message and heal them. the following weeks the tents were packed out. When executed correctly the Jesus message would show the approval of God.

John 7:14-18

The apostles God their doctrine from Jesus -(Matthew 28:30) but Jesus says this doctrine is not his but He who sent him and if any man would purpose to do (not study to know) the will of God will know the doctrine.

Matthew 7: 21

Not everyone that seems to be aligned with him and says, Lord. It's easy for us to say Jesus is Lord. but he doesn't want that, He understands Him being Lord over us when we are doing His will.

John 6:40

Everlasting life has everything to do with faith in Jesus Christ and in Him alone. and Because of our faith, we will experience the resurrection power.

I am speaking with much thought tonight with our outlook on church and the Jesus experience. What the Lord is saying is that a man who believes in the message of Jesus will act differently from the way he acted before he met Christ. This man will love Him with every fiber of his being, The body of Christ that received the gift of the Holy Ghost, that great awesome worship being in one place and in one mind, no one trying to prove themselves over the other. They had the same need and were subjected to the instruction. 120 believers in one place in obedience to Christ. Worship is obedience to Christ, not our noise because we can be noisy and be disobedient.

Out of the attitude of 120 believers performing the will of God, the Holy Ghost was poured out and it shook the entire city and they were perplexed the worship was so intense that it created that sort of an atmosphere that unbelievers were attracted to what the believers were experiencing.

I recognize that people who need God are never attracted to programs. I want God to strip this church and to strip me and I mean to strip us of whatever may be a hindrance to the purity of the message of Jesus. You see when the church performs the will of God the supernatural takes place. God had never intended at any time for us to create atmospheres to receive the supernatural based on our programs. We want a church free from suffering, a Jesus experiences foreign to Jesus himself, and it's confusing the church.

Hebrews 5:8

He learned obedience by his suffering, now if we are continuing in the apostle's doctrine how can we change that to fit a rebellious society who want to live comfortably with hopes to have no pain and receive eternal life. But God never changed. The suffering caused the voice to say this is my beloved son in whom I'm well pleased. in other words, His message must be listened to and all man's attention must be given to what Jesus has to say. I know people are excited to see signs and wonders and many of God if God uses us we talk about ourselves and forget God and live a life of pride

Acts 5:12 - 42 (the second persecution)

To be steadfast in doctrine the body needs to understand what the message is and fully commit themselves to the message by obeying it.

The apostles had nothing new to teach the people they served Jesus faithfully for three and a half years and what the Lord taught them, this is what they taught the people.

The message of Jesus has the ability to attract people who desire of being saved from their sinful lives.

We must believe that if we are connected to the message of Jesus, Jesus will show up.

We like this story from Acts 5: 12-18 what a nice Sunday night experience and thats how we want it but that can't happen without Verse 17

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If the church gets the miracles without persecution what we have in the church is the wild wild west and soon you hear nothing of Jesus.

My pastor would say I don't preach miracles. The Church wasn't called to preach miracles we don't pray for that. Preach Jesus and his message and when you preach Jesus signs and wonders will follow you. But we want the miracles to go-ahead from the message of Jesus. We can accept the signs and wonders but the message of Jesus is hard to accept. Remember the rich young ruler who was instructed to sell all and then went away sorrowful. no wonder the Church was selling out everything they knew they couldn't handle possessions and Jesus at the same time. Possessions cause us to be independent and make us significant and when we handle a little money we see ourselves satisfying all our needs and to appease our conscience we call on His name but we pray and He doesn't answer we will put it on the credit card. But there are folks who know that if Jesus doesn't answer they know they are dead so they pray with passion.

To be steadfast means one must expect suffering. "although He was a son He learned obedience through what He suffered"

Yes, we are apostolic but the label cant save us. Obedience to His Will, will save us. Jesus means what he said "only those who do the will of my Father will receive eternal life"

They were persecuted but the angel of the Lord delivered them. If God can heal the sick then the same God can deliver us out of all persecution if He desires to do so.

The ministry of Jesus speaks life - no system can imprison the message of Life.

They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine. When they were delivered the angel sent them back to the temple to stand in the place where they were persecuted and speak the message and doctrine of Jesus Christ.

We would have a good board meeting to strategize to make sure we have lawyers because we don't want to lose our status as a charity or lose our building just to make sure we can say this thing without causing offense. I want to turn this country upside down for Jesus.

So they went early in the morning, not with a titled sermon with supporting points, they taught exactly what the Lord did and as the Lord told them to do. They taught without fear or worrying.

The message of the apostles made many perplexed. I fear there is a great danger in doing what we want to do and we are not correctly executing the message of Jesus. Leave some of our fancy pulpits and goes to a man who will go to the poor and preach the gospel. A building without a message, a building where the glory can never be found.

Peter started his response to the authorities with the message of resurrection.

The Holy Ghost is given to them that obey Him.

Every preacher should read this passage - to be bold in the message of Jesus is to be prepared to die.

God allowed his presence to come near to Gamaliel

Acts 4:41 - counted worthy to suffer shame

we have a kind of wisdom that Jesus Called the foolishness of men. Because after being persecuted they went back daily to the temple to preach. Something was in their bones and spirit. They went right back to where they bore shame because there were people dying and they had the message to lose them. They didn't stop preaching Jesus Christ.

We are traveling with a message from Jesus that is what makes us feel satisfied and makes us live a life of Joy as we perform the will of Jesus Christ.

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