

The New Normal

Acts 5:12-42

LIVING THE PARADOX

Power & Persecution?

Acts 5:12-42

HOW DO WE GET TO 5:41?

Five Things We Need To Know & Remember . . .

- ❶ **Unrealistic expectations = _____.**

John 10:10/ Matthew 10:22 & Luke 6:22-23/ Acts 14:21-22/ 2 Corinthians 4:17

- ❷ **The battle is _____ and _____.**

2 Corinthians 4:4/ 1 Peter 5:8-10/ Acts 5:40-41/ Acts 12:1-3

- ❸ **God's _____ shows up on God's _____.**

Acts 5:15-16 & Acts 28:1-10/ 1 Corinthians 12:6-11/ Mark 6:4-6 & 1 Timothy 5:23

- ❹ **Lots of things _____ – yet.**

Deuteronomy 29:29/ Hebrews 11:6-8

- ❺ **We always get the grace we need _____.**

Acts 5:41/1 Corinthians 10:13

Food for Thought

For the week of May 31, 2009

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. This week we were reminded that we shouldn't be surprised when we experience setbacks, hardship or even persecution. Like us, many of the Israelites had some unrealistic expectations. Theirs were centered on what it would take to claim the Promised Land as their own. Read Numbers 13:25–14:4 and then jot down how you think their response to this situation would have been different if they had taken to heart Joshua 1:6-9.

What would it look like to put 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 into practice? How can this short passage help us have more realistic expectations?

2. Acts 5:41 gives us a snapshot of trusting God and actually praising him regardless of circumstances. How can the following passages add to your understanding of what it means to trust God and move closer to the kind of faith shown in Acts 5:41?

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Nahum 1:7

Mark 6:45-56

3. Accepting our “New Normal” means continuing to trust and follow Christ even when we're facing unavoidable or unwanted changes. What was the “New Normal” for the man in Mark 5:1-20? What mission was he given?

Can you think of a “New Normal” that you have had to face and come to grips with? Of the five points Pastor Joe mentioned in the message as being important to know and remember, is there one that has (or would have) made the most difference in your response to the situation?