

# Week 18

## Acts (part 2) - Praxaeij Apostolwn

### *Praxeis*<sup>1</sup> *Apostolon* - Acts of the Apostles

- Sunday, Feb 20** Acts 11<sup>2</sup> - We're Not in Jerusalem Anymore  
**For Reflection:** In the second part of chapter 11 we see God using a bad thing (persecution) for good (the furthering of the gospel to places it never would have gotten to without a persecution that scattered the believers).<sup>3</sup> *When was the last time God redeemed something bad into something good for you?*  
**Lagniappe:** Matthew 5:10-12
- Monday, Feb 21** Acts 12<sup>4</sup> - Ouch!  
**For Reflection:** When have you suffered rejection or worse because of your faith?  
**Lagniappe:** 2 Timothy 3:12
- Tuesday, Feb 22** Acts 13 - First Mission Trip  
**For Reflection:** I am always impressed with the church in Antioch. Sending out key leaders had to be painful for those left behind. Notice also the diversity of leadership which is **united in Christ** (there leadership team included 2 Jews, 2 Africans, and a politician) *What's the healthiest aspect of your Christian community?*  
**Lagniappe:** Genesis 12:1
- Wednesday, Feb 23** Acts 15 – Politics  
**For Reflection:** *What is your method/process to discern what is right when people that you love and respect disagree? To whom do you submit?*  
**Lagniappe:** Matthew 18:20

---

<sup>1</sup> You know this word - praxis which is the root from which we get practice, pragmatic and practical. In education the word praxis is still used to differentiate theoretical knowledge from applied knowledge.

<sup>2</sup> We see here in chapter 11 just how radical or questionable the gentile inclusion was considered believers. Chapters 10-11 are historical turning point chapters. Can you imagine if this group Peter was answering to in chapter 11 ruled against the inclusion????

<sup>3</sup> This is the persecution we read about in chapter 8, (cf. 8:1)

<sup>4</sup> Whenever I read this chapter, I wonder why James died and Peter was rescued (and what a rescue, huh? The coolest place to spend that night in Jerusalem was in the city jail.) I think it's best to accept that the will of God is mystery – in this world we see in a mirror dimly (1 Corinthians 13:12).

**Thursday, Feb 24** Acts 16<sup>5</sup> – Second Mission Trip<sup>6</sup>  
**For Reflection:** *How has God led you in your life? Where is your mission field (don't assume you need a passport)?<sup>7</sup>*  
**Lagniappe:** Matthew 28:18-20

**Friday, Feb 25** Acts 19 – Third Mission Trip<sup>8</sup>  
**For Reflection:** We have all sorts of mission today: medical mission, clean water mission, construction project mission, education mission, political/advocacy mission, and on and on. *What was the purpose of these first mission trips? In verse 8 Paul is proclaiming boldly, about what topic or concern will you boldly speak about.* Most people today seem most passionate about politics. In these three trips we notice that Paul had a home base: the church in Antioch. This is the church that sent him out into mission and welcomed him back from mission. *Where is your home base?*  
**Lagniappe:** Romans 1:16 and Isaiah 40:9

**Saturday, Feb 26** Acts 28:16-31 – An Abrupt and Strange End  
**For Reflection:** Many students of Acts have noticed it doesn't really end, it doesn't come to closure. Many readers yearn to encourage Luke (the author) to at least finish with Paul's death, or the destruction of the temple, but Luke, deaf to our coaching, stubbornly ends the book his way. Probably, this is just as God wanted, for it is future generations of Christians that are entrusted with adding their pages to the story. *How are you/we adding pages to this unfinished story?*  
**Lagniappe:** John 10:27<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> Any chapter of the Bible that includes night visions, undesired healings, minor riots, nights in jail, earthquakes, jailhouse conversions, and escorts out of town, is probably worthy of our reading.

<sup>6</sup> For full coverage of this mission trip start in 15:36 and keep at it until 18:23

<sup>7</sup> Connie, my wife, always tells me that any anniversary that is divisible by 5 should require a passport. But that's a different sort of mission.

<sup>8</sup> For full coverage of the third mission trip 19-21

<sup>9</sup> Maybe mission at its best starts with a simple but fateful decision to follow. Maybe the Church is at it's healthiest when it seeks to follow its Lord well.