

**Reading assignment for November 5-11; John 7-21; Acts 1-8**

**Memory:** John 14:12 "*Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to my Father.*"

**Consider:**

1. Consider the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead in John 11. Jesus did not respond to the crisis the way Mary, Martha and their friends anticipated he would, but rather he intentionally waited until after the death before acting. What can we glean from this story that helps us when it appears God is not responding to our prayers?
2. In John 14:1, 27 Jesus admonished His followers to "*let not your heart be troubled...*" To "*let not*" means to forbid or prevent from happening. How do we accomplish this? What else did Jesus say in chapter 14 that applies?
3. In Acts 1 the disciples stood looking into the sky after they saw Jesus ascend to heaven.
  - a. What did the angels say to the disciples in 1:10-11, and how did it relate to what Jesus had previously told them in 1:4-8? What does this have to say about the focus and priorities Jesus wanted them to have?
  - b. What was the result of the disciples obeying these instructions chapters 2 & 3?
  - c. How does this apply to us today?
4. In Acts 5, the Holy Spirit used the apostles to perform miracles.
  - a. In addition to the many miracles, the apostles received a tremendous compliment in 5:28 when the critics said "*you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine...*". Make it a matter of fervent prayer this week for our congregation to fill our community with a clear message of the gospel.
  - b. How were these miracles received by people in the community?
  - c. In Acts 5:33-42 Gamaliel counseled the Sanhedrin (*skeptics and critics*) to not persecute the apostles but take a wait-and-see attitude to determine whether or not their works were from God. How does this story apply to us today, and how can our community know the power of God is at work in the Church today?