

MY NOTES

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us (we must be out of this one by December 2016).

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these “challenges” are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

Week 15

ACTS

A Joy In Our
Identity

TODAY'S VERSES:

Acts 5:17-42

Acts 5:25

John 18:36

1 Peter 2:11-12

UPCOMING @ ELEMENT

Connect Party

May 13th at 7pm. Join us for dessert and hang out and connect with others and the leadership of Element! Email connect@ourelement.org to RSVP.

Stay up to Date:

ourelement.org/events

facebook.com/ourelement

or sign up for our weekly email update.





So far in Acts:

A Story That
Enlightens Us

A Resurrection And
Ascension That Is
Promised To US

Guidance That Leads Us

A Heritage That
Informs Us

Worship That
Reminds Us

Preaching That
Changes Us

Generosity That
Defines Us

Compassion That Is
Bigger Than Us

Truth That
Challenges Us

A Name That
Confronts Us

Community That
Encourages Us

Membership That
Accounts For Us

Accountability That
Exposes Us

A Hope That Heals Us

Week 15 – Acts 5:17-42 A Joy In Our Identity

This is week 15 of our 37 week journey through the book of Acts. On the side of these notes you will see an overview of each of the weeks we have covered so far. Today will put much of Acts 5 together as we discuss a joy that comes from understanding our identity in Jesus.

If you had to put up an online ad to describe yourself, what would you say?

How would you describe Christianity?

This week we look at having a joyful identify in Christ. In Acts 5 we see that people are being loved by God, people are being saved (non-Christians are becoming Christians), people are healed, and people are being delivered. The Apostles, in Acts 5:17-42, get into trouble because their faith has gone public and they are doing miracles while inviting others to learn and hear about Jesus.

Have you ever done something with the best intentions and it backfired?

Have you ever done something for Jesus and it backfired?

Part of what we understand in today's text is an example of how, *"God does everything for his glory and so should we."* The apostles are living, showing and preaching how Jesus died for our sins, rose from the grave, and is reconciling the whole world to Himself. The apostles do this with with great boldness, but the religious authorities become jealous.

Read Acts 5:17-29.

What words stand out to you?

Who (or what) are you jealous of?

The way we answer the question of jealousy will largely determine where we get our worth and where our identity is found. By looking at Acts 5, the high priest was jealous of the apostles because the power was shifting away from him and going to where it was meant to be: in Jesus. The jealousy of the high priest was a result of his misplaced identity, the high priest found his identity in his work and position instead of who God said he was.

Where do you turn when things get tough?

Where do you have trouble obeying God over man?

When we look to other things or to people for our fulfillment, we will always be left wanting more.

Why should there be joy in Christ?

If our identify is in Jesus then the proclamation of the Gospel, the good news that Jesus is making all things NEW through His death and resurrection, where we find our joy will change. When we understand that Jesus has taken all of our sins on Himself and provided the way for relationship to be restored between us and God again, we become new people. When we understand that Jesus has provided the way for relationships with one another to be restored again, we truly become God's ambassadors to the world. When we understand how the gospel changes everything we realize life has meaning and purpose.

Where would you say you get the most worth in your life?

Where would you say your identity is found?

Can you imagine having joy in the midst of any situation that comes into your life? Joy is not pretending everything is ok, it is not happiness, it is deep, soul-abiding knowledge that in the midst of the storms in our lives, Jesus has saved us. True joy comes from understanding our identity in the person of Jesus.