



March 12-18, 2017

Text: Acts 5:17-42

**Theme: ACTS-ION:
The Dynamic Life of Christ's Church –
Then and Now**

SUMMARY OF “SERMON”: What initially looks like another setback for the early Church – all the apostles are arrested and jailed – turns out to be yet another opportunity for them to testify about Jesus as Lord and Savior. Every obstacle that the Church has faced for 2,000 years, and there have been innumerable, have been overcome by God's grace and power. No surprise. Because Christ is Lord and only God's kingdom lasts forever.

RELATED BIBLE PASSAGES FOR THE COMING WEEK [The Bible readings this week remind us that no matter the obstacles God brings victory and His purposes win.]

*Monday, Mar. 13 – **II Corinthians 2:12-17*** [V.14 is a great expression of our victory in Christ no matter what happens. The verses that follow acknowledge that while some welcome the gospel others oppose it, which might mean suffering. But the victory is ultimately always with Christ.]

*Tuesday, Mar. 14 – **Esther 7*** [The book of Esther is a marvelous story of God snatching victory from the jaws of defeat. Just when it looks like God's people, the Jews, might be annihilated, there is a stunning reversal as we see in this chapter. Yes, the Jews suffered but God brought the victory.]

*Wednesday, Mar. 15 – **Revelation 2:8-11*** [The Church in Smyrna was facing persecution and suffering for the cause of Christ. Yet they are promised victory when it really matters – eternity with Christ in glory.]

*Thursday, Mar. 16 – **Micah 5*** [Micah has prophesied that due to their idolatry and rebellion against God, Israel and Judah will both suffer defeat and exile. Yet this chapter foresees that in the end God will raise up a Ruler (Christ) and bring restoration and victory to His people.]

*Friday, Mar. 17 – **I John 5:1-12*** [John writes, vv.4-5, that our faith in Christ brings victory over the world and life eternal. Those without Christ may seem to have victories on earth but they do not have victory in the end, eternal life (v.12).]

*Saturday, Mar. 18 – **Psalms 20*** [This psalm was a prayer of victory for Israel's king. Think of how Jesus, the true King, fulfills this passage.]



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