The Church Nobody Would Join

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"THE CHURCH NOBODY WOULD JOIN"
Acts 5:11-14

1. I read some works of the early church and at times it seems so similar--again so strange!
   A. Our text is one of these readings that seems strange.
      Acts 5:11-14
   B. Note somethings
      1. Fear came upon all the church
         (a) Are we afraid of anything today?
         (b) What's sacred and to be respected anymore?
         (c) When have you heard the Word that made you tremble?

2. Apostles wrought signs and wonders.
   Mk. 16:15-20 "And he said unto them go
   Heb. 2:3-4 "How shall we escape if we
   Acts 14:3 "Long time therefore abode
   (a) What great outreach is our to people?
   (b) What earth shattering things do we for others? Orphans? Naked? Elderly?
3. They were all with one accord.
   (a) That I never saw—even to the extent we were all at the same place on time!
   (b) If we were somebody would write it up as a publicity stunt!

4. None of the rest dared join them.
   (a) Remember all our sermons about not joining the church.
   (b) These folks didn't join because preachers said they couldn't only add to—but because those who were in really stood for something. John 9:22 "These words spake His/" (c) The standard was high, even above a civic club.

5. The people magnified them.
   Acts 2:47 "Praising God, and having fav/ (a) Are folks happy we are here?
   (b) Would they be happy to see the loving Jesus—then they should us because we are supposed to be doing whatever He did!
(c) Larry Williams prayed we might be the "living portraits."

II. Of all these things I would us to study, the High Standard. We must be somebody via Christ's standards

A. How side is a church door?
   1. Mercutio in Romeo and Juliet was asked about wound he received in a fight, "'Tis not so deep as a well, not so wide as a church door, but it is enough, it will serve!"
   2. Bonhoeffer writes of a cheap grace.
   3. Have we made it too easy
   4. Jesus is the door.
      John 10:9 "I am the door
      (a) No bargain basement levels TEU
      "For some godless men, who have slipped in unnoticed among us, distort the message about the grace of God to excuse their was and reject Jesus Christ, our only Master & Lord.
   5. Door both wide for all and narrow to what God wants
      Ps. 51:47 "
      Acts 2:37-38 "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart
B. Do we see a discipline?
1. Word disciple 260 in Gospels to Acts
2. Less than 30x to 12
   Luke 6:13 "And when it was day He ca...
3. Christian=Christ like
   all followers of Jesus are disciples--
   one who accept discipline
   Luke 6:40 "The disciple is not above his
   (a) Christ doesn't accept less
   today than in 1st century.
4. Do you remember why God called
   Israel?
   Deut. 7:7-9 "The Lord did not e His 1
   Deut. 4:40 "Thou shalt keep therefore
   (a) Directly connected was their
   faithfulness to enjoying the cov-
   enant.
   (b) Bow quote
5. What kind of member is the average one
   today?
   Heb. 12:8 "If you are left without discip
   line in which all have participated, then
   you are illegitimate children and not
   sons"
   Acts 20:28 "Take heed therefore unto
6. Samuel Shoemaker "Putting an eager
   seeker after Christ into the conventional
   church is like putting a live chicken
   under a dead hen."
7. Peter Berger "The most common delusion is the conviction of ministers that what they preach on Sunday has a direct influence on what their listeners do on Monday"

8. Clips by Bow and Trueblood. 2, 3, 4

C. Let's do a little 20th and 1st century comparing. In:
1. Missions
   Acts 8:4 "They that were scattered
   Shoemaker #5
2. Giving
   Acts 4:34 "Neither was there any
   Bow #6
3. Study
   Acts 17:11 "These were more noble
   Less than 1 book per gr. read by 60%
   literate America
4. Attendance
   Acts 11:33 "Now therefore we are all
   Bow 7, 8, 9, 10
Front and rear seat power was front facing, people admired the straight and holy position.

Separate world divides church that stands uncompromisingly.

For Women:

Diluted lines make for a laugh.
failure. For prove a propitiation to cause a
victual, and success come by been donations.

Some send heavenly power to apostles, but
then weren't approached by previous families.

M. G.

Lk 5:8
Huxley was making an intelligent observation when he said that "a man's worst difficulties begin when he is able to do as he likes." One very important function of Christianity is to say unequivocally, "This is right! This is wrong!" Without this—with only a relative, individualistic moral and theological structure, there can be nothing but confusion and chaos. Walter Lippmann writes, concerning this:

I do not mean that modern men have ceased to believe in God. I do mean that they no longer believe in him simply and literally. I mean that they have defined and refined their ideas of him until they can no longer honestly say that he exists, as they would say that their neighbor exists. Searcy the writings of liberal churchmen, and when you come
to the crucial passages which are intended to express their belief in God, you will find, I think, that at just this point their uncertainty is most evident.

from "Christianity and Current Thought"
"A Protestant Rebels" by Lee Cornish
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NEWS & NOTES

The Bobby Shelton family spent last week end in Arkansas with Nadine's parents, and her sister and family from New Mexico.

Jim and Joyce Abbott of San Antonio, Texas visited the Claude Johnston's Sunday. Joyce is Claude's sister.

Mrs. Alice Hestand spent from Sunday night until Thursday morning with Claude and Lucile Johnston.

"WHICH CHURCH SHALL I JOIN?"

All up and down this troubled land,
Confusion reigns today,
As honest folks on every hand
In doubt are heard to say,
I do not know which church to join
There are so very many,
To whom we offer this advice
You never should join any.
You cannot join the church of Christ
No man can vote you in.
The Lord himself will add you when
He saves you from your sin.
Then take no chances neighbor
This race but once you'll run,
A church you'd join must be of man
And not the Bible one.
Beware a church you cannot find
Within the sacred pages,
Be safe, dear sinner, rest your soul
Upon the Rock of Ages,
Be added to this blood bought church
And drink salvation's cup.
For every plant God planteth not
It shall be rooted up.
No mourner's bench on Pentecost
The inspired Peter fitted,
But said, "Repent and be baptized
That your sins may be remitted,"
The Lord, who saved and added those
Who did that day his will,
Will do the same for you, dear friend
For he is adding still.
Let not false teachers lead you wrong
Nor close your eyes in slumber.
When Jesus said, "I'll build my church,"
Twas not the plural number.