**ACTS of GOD #19:** *Highly Regarded by the People*

Acts 5:12-16 6/02/2019

**A Continued Impact among the People** (v.12a, 15-16)

***12****At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; …****15****to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them.****16****Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.*

-Answered Prayers Continue to Advance the Mission (v. 12a)

 -Acts 4:29- Power for them to speak God’s word with all confidence

 -This was the main mission being conducted by the Apostles

 -This prayer resulted from the Sanhedrin’s demand for silence

 -v.14 (All the more believers in the Lord constantly added)

 -Acts 4:30- Power from God to establish & verify His messengers

 -Asking God to extend His hand to heal & provide signs & wonders

 -All in the name of Jesus

 -Not for glorifying the apostles

 -Verifying Jesus as Messiah & confirming their message

 -Through the hands of Apostles, signs & wonders were happening

 -Signs -acts that authenticate the Lord & His eternal purpose

 -Wonders -miraculous marvels to elicit reactions from onlookers

 -Coming to pass through the apostles among the people

 -Signs & Wonders gather crowds & garner attention

 -Those engaged w/ signs & wonders respond in 2 ways

 -Seek more & more wow without any thought to why

 -Experience-centric, self-focused moments do not save

 -Seek divine truth the sign/wonder authenticates & confirms

 -Miraculous always serves the Master & His Message

 -Amazed People Continue to Ache for More (v. 15-16)

 -Some people miss the message but want the wow duplicated

 -Attempted reconstruction of what happened at the beautiful gate

 -Peter “walked” by lame man at the gate & he was healed

 -Formulaic, personally-controlled action to get desired outcome

 -waiting for a moment to seize rather than seeking the Lord

 -Like waiting for the Pool at Bethesda to be stirred (John 5)

 -Seeking Peter’s shadow on cots (rich) or mats (poor) in the street

 -This describes what people were doing not God or Peter

 -Lining the broadways & squares for a passing blessing

 -Seeking a peripheral blessing w/o engagement or commitment

 -Some people hear the news & come to seek their own verification

 -Coming from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem

 -Bringing the sick & afflicted who were all being healed

 -The signs continue for those coming from the outside

**Highly Regarded by the people who would not dare** (v.12b-14)

***12b****…and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s portico.****13****But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem.****14****And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number,*

-Each and every one together in one accord

 -In Solomon’s Portico

 -A public place of worship, but no public interfacing

 -To be a part of the body is distinct from being apart from the body

 - All the more believers in the Lord adding to the number

 (multitudes of men & women)

 -None of the rest dared to join them