



Fr. Matt's Musings

May 26, 2017

The Acts of the Apostles

I think most of us think of Luke as the evangelist, whom we credit with the authorship of the third gospel, but Luke is also the author of The Acts of the Apostles. We read from the Acts throughout the Easter season as it describes the activities, growth and difficulties of the nascent Christian community. Much of what we hear and read is extraordinary:

1. Pentecost. "Tongues, as of fire, rested upon them." (Acts 2: 2) They began to preach in the languages of all who were assembled before them.
2. Communal Life. Daily, they devoted themselves to prayer, the breaking of the bread and they held all things in common and dispersed goods according to each one's needs (Acts 2: 42-47).
3. Cures. Peter and John continue Jesus' ministry of healing as they cure a lame beggar who asks for alms (Acts 3: 1-10).
4. S/Paul. Saul the persecutor has a dramatic conversion in Chapter 9 and changes from persecutor to Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles. It is his travels and ministry which will dominate much of Acts.

The list can continue, but I hope this helps to illustrate the point of the extraordinary activities of the early community. By contrast, my life feels very ordinary. Then, I changed my focus and thought how extraordinary it is that I am loved. I have a God who loves me in every moment of my life. I have family and friends who love me despite my faults, failings and inconsistencies. You who are married, it is extraordinary that you have found one person who will love you daily in a committed and exclusive way. Parents, it is extraordinary the loving sacrifices you will make for your children.

St. Francis de Sales says that the ordinary things of life become extraordinary when they are done with great love. This Memorial Day Weekend, let us celebrate the extraordinary, saving love of our God and the ways in which we receive and show that love as His faithful disciples. We must also give thanks for the extraordinary sacrifice made by so many that we may live our lives in freedom and in love.

Live Jesus!

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