

University Heights Church  
of Christ  
445 Columbia Ave.,  
Lexington, KY 40508  
(859) 255-6257  
www.uheightschurch.com

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Sunday**

Bible Study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**

Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is  
immediately followed by a  
short worship period)

**First Friday of Each Month**

Singing: 7:30 PM

**LEADERSHIP**

**Elders**

David Collins

John Thompson

Troy Antle

**Evangelist**

Adam Litmer

**Deacons**

Richard Brundige

Matt Thompson

Adam Litmer

Bill Morelan

Jim Parsons

Pat Seabolt

Adam Daniels

Jamie Powell

**IN NEED OF PRAYERS**

Bill Osborne, Jim Parsons, Rachel  
Thompson, Larry Billator, Julie  
Patton, Karen Spivey, Sandra Russell,  
Jeff Howerton, Janet Brundige,  
Rhonda Boyd (and her sister,  
Dorothy), Paul Atkisson, Julia-Ann  
Dixon, Ed Allison, Dwight Antle, Keia  
Burton, Robert Brundige, Valerie and  
Barry Boyd, Janett's mother, Sandy  
Driver, Erlene Young, Larry Sells,  
Evelyn Damron, Jean Gartland, John  
Blessing, William Roberts, Paul Lyda,  
Pete Soro, Mattie Johnson, Elijah  
Epling, Sandra Queen, Linda Moore,  
Sheila Johnson, Virginia Gordon,  
Glenn Lake, Annie Allen

# University Heights Messenger

Volume 10--Number 19

May 13, 2018

## Have You Been With Jesus?

Adam Litmer

Acts 5:27-29 says, *And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter answered, "We must obey God rather than men."*

It required courage for Peter and the others to stand before the council and say the things they did. The Sanhedrin charged the apostles with disobeying their command to teach no more in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:18). The apostles said that it was right for them to disobey. The Sanhedrin accused the apostles of trying to bring the blood of Jesus Christ upon their heads. The apostles accused them of killing Jesus. (Acts 5:30) The Sanhedrin denied that Jesus possessed divine authority. The apostles declared, *God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.* (Acts 5:31) By then much of the Sanhedrin was prepared to kill the apostles. (Acts 5:33) Had they not heeded the advice of Gamaliel (Acts 5:34-39) they probably would have done so.

What a display of courageous faith! Were they a different breed of human, a group of first century "supermen" exempt from

the discouragements and fears that often plague “the rest of us”? What else could explain their ability to stand with such determined strength before an enraged Sanhedrin?

They were not supermen and they had not always been as bold as this. Even after this Peter, the spokesman for the group, would briefly turn hypocrite and lead others astray by his example (Galatians 2:11-13). God reveals their failings so that we will recognize that they were like us, fraught with all the frailties and fears indigenous to humanity. Like us, they occasionally succumbed to temptation. Like us, they experienced illnesses and death. Like us, they sometimes needed a shoulder to cry on. Like us, they needed to be encouraged. Like us, *they needed to be saved!*

But if they were not supermen, if they really were just like us, how did they manage to stand before a hostile council and make so effective a defense that the council could not begin to answer them? The answer is in Acts 4:13, the first time two apostles were brought before the council. *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.* They had been with Jesus. They had traveled with him, listened to him, received training from him, and been saved by him. *They had been with Jesus.*

When ordinary people are filled with extraordinary faith that they have been with Jesus becomes evident to all who are paying attention. Our ordinary daily lives should show us the truth of this. Why do faithful Christian spouses patiently work at their marriage when folks all around them with similar troubles and fears separate from one another? It is because they have been with Jesus. Why does the faithful Christian see the glory of God in the brilliant

morning sunlight while other folks are grumbling about going to work in the morning? It is because they have been with Jesus. Why doesn't the faithful Christian curse and throw out vulgar gestures when someone cuts them off while driving or shoves in front of them in the grocery line? It is because they have been with Jesus.

Living hand in hand with Jesus does not reveal itself only when one's life is on the line. It is something that shines through in daily life. Of course, it *does* require a mature, committed faith to hold its resolve in the face of personal danger. It is the type of faith all saints should work for. Christians often say that they do not know what they would do if faced with the same challenges of some of our earliest brethren, such as those faced by the apostles in Acts 4 and 5. I don't believe that to be the correct attitude. *All* committed Christians should be prepared to not just have their faith tested, but to cling to it to the end, even if that end is death (Matthew 10:22). Such would certainly not be *easy*, but it would be *expected* by the One prepared to welcome them on the other side.

We are ordinary people. None of us masquerades as regular humans until we find a phone booth. Yet we are all capable of extraordinary things through our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Living the faithful Christian life each day is as extraordinary as surviving the most trying moments with faith intact. Both are made possible because the saint has been with Jesus.



