

# Friday, June 17, 2022

## Acts 29 — Our Chapter of the Bible

One of my favorite memories of former NFBC Youth Minister Brandon Owen is from when he preached on Acts in “big church.” Toward the end of the sermon he asked everyone to turn to Acts 29, and I can distinctly remember turning there in my brown Bible Drill Bible only to find that Acts ended with chapter 28. The way Brandon explained it goes something like this:

Acts is very much a chronicle of the early Church and, while it is certainly instructional, we also have a special connection to Acts as members of the present-day church. As we begin our missions in Miami, let’s remind each other that we are not only living out God’s instructions from the Bible, but we are writing the next chapter of Acts as we serve those around us through the church.

— William Lankford



# Saturday, June 18, 2022

Almost 5 years ago I visited Miami with my family. My sister, Natalie, was interested in the University of Miami so we toured the college and went around the city. I remember it being very tropical and full of lively people and music. We visited Little Havana and ate Cuban sandwiches. Natalie loved the city, but the school ended up not being the right fit because God had other plans for her life.

Now I'm the one looking at colleges and trying to figure out what to do after I graduate. I think about how someone knows God's plans or what their future might hold. It is only natural to worry about the choices you make and whether or not they are right. In Matthew 6:34 the Bible says, "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." It is telling us not to worry about the future, but instead to trust God with our present. We are not always given all of God's plan at one time. It takes faith and trust to follow Him.

On Choir Tour we will experience a lot of "choices." Our plans may not always go as expected. It is easy to get anxious or worried about what is happening or why. We might be concerned about how we sound, if the crowd is listening, or if we are making a difference. However, it is important to stay focused on our mission and why God has placed us there. We choose to have a good attitude, to help people, and to place our faith in God. We can lay our worries on our Heavenly Father, and we can trust His will to be done through us in Miami.

— Mary Shull



# Sunday, June 19, 2022

Hey, guys! I hope you are having a great time on this Youth Choir Mission Tour as it is a great way to connect with God and your fellow peers. As we explore the city of Miami, I thought it would be great to dive into a few verses entailing a marine/water topic! Although these upcoming verses have been taught to us as children and young adults for many years, this trip will allow us to look at them in a new light.

<sup>36</sup> Leaving the crowd behind, they took Him along, just as He was, in the boat. There were also other boats with Him. <sup>37</sup> A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.

<sup>38</sup> Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

<sup>39</sup> He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

<sup>40</sup> He said to His disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

<sup>41</sup> They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!”

Mark 4:36-41 (NIV)

I decided to choose this passage for several reasons. First and foremost, this clearly pertains to the great city that we will have the opportunity to explore. Even having the chance to position ourselves on a boat, we will be able to slightly put ourselves into the position that some of the disciples and Jesus encountered. Secondly, while YCMT is extremely fun and hectic, it can sometimes be hard to actually take time to “calm the storm” within us. This being said, I urge everyone to savor the encounters that lie ahead and let them resonate within you, and if you ever find that things are frantic or anxiety-producing, looking to God will always prevail because “even the wind and the waves obey Him!”

— Jasmine Jordan-Lake



# Monday, June 20, 2022

“Don’t let anyone despise your youth, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.” – 1 Timothy 4:12

As we teach and lead the children who are in VBS this week, we must think back upon these wise words said by Paul so many years ago. Even though we may be young, we still have one of the greatest opportunities in the whole world: to teach those who don’t know about the unending and all-encompassing love of Jesus that is able to cleanse us of all of our sin and is able to save our souls.

So, while we may get tired and we may lose spirit during this week, it is important to remember to keep going and to never give up on spreading the gospel, just as Christ kept going and never quit trying to save and redeem us, even when it eventually led to His death. Even though we may run out of energy, we must never take our eyes off of the goal, which is the eternal life for all that know of Jesus’ love and sacrifice.

— Jay Schremmer



# Tuesday, June 21, 2022

*And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” – Matthew 28:18-20 ESV*

This is one of my favorite passages in the Bible because of how much it shows us about God and how we should go out and live, and it walks through some of the things that should be going through our heads this week. First of all, Jesus has all the power over all the earth. He has set a path before us and will keep us safe and healthy. As the week goes on, we get tired and for some, we might get allergies or even a little sick, but we need to keep pushing through because there are people out there that we are called to and given opportunities to reach and share the Word of God to. Going on to verse 19, this isn't just a trip to go out and explore Miami, but is about fulfilling this verse and sharing the good news to the Miami community. God has put us in this position to help others and teach others about Him through singing and service. So although we may get tired and just not feel up to singing or service later in the week, it is important that we know that we're representing God and our church to people who haven't had many experiences with Christianity. Lastly, according to Matthew, the last words Jesus spoke before His ascension was to remember that He will be with us ALWAYS and till the end of the age. Through the highs and the lows of the week, through exhaustion and excitement, God will be with us and will provide. That doesn't end with the trip though. He says that He will be with us till the end of the age. So as we go through the week, make sure that we fight through everything to spread the Word of God to the city of Miami with the opportunities He has set before us, and to remember that He is with us always and for forever.

— Daniel Clay



# Wednesday, June 22, 2022

*I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, `You are my servant'; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

– Isaiah 41:9-10

One of the most difficult things about serving others is being discouraged. Oftentimes, we feel as if what we are doing will never be enough, or that we will not be able to endure some of the difficult tasks that service can bring. It is very hard to leave your comfort zone, but it is even harder to help other people grow in their relationships with Christ when we are still growing ourselves. It is challenging to feel strong and exemplify the power of Christ to others if we are feeling weak inside.

But God tells us we are strengthened through Him. He has chosen us to be His faithful servants and spread the good news. He has not rejected us, He has forgiven us of our sins. Sometimes, we will not feel confident in our abilities to share the gospel. But we must remember it is what God has called us to and He promised to be our strength. And when we fear that we may fail, we will not be dismayed if we remember that God is at work and we are not alone. We are upheld by His righteous right hand.

— Sydney Banks



MIAMI

# Thursday, June 23, 2022

Matthew 18:21-22 – Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.””

As we journey together throughout Miami on this long trip, many of us will become tired and frustrated at one another. We have gone through a very long month with one another in hopes to receive Jesus in ourselves and to the children of our own church. At some point on our trip, we will grow mad at someone, like a roommate or a friend, but we must forgive one another for we are here for a bigger purpose than to sightsee and have fun with friends.

We are in this city of Miami to show the people God’s glory and lead them to Him. We are here to show other children from another church God’s Word. Lastly, we are here to strengthen our own bond with Jesus so that we can effectively show it to others.

If we fight, bicker, or talk about one another behind each other’s backs, then we have failed at showing the forgiveness of God and His kindness. We must forgive one another so we show not just those in Miami God’s Word, but each other as well. I hope we will show each other forgiveness and love, and help others turn to Jesus.

— Sadie Malone



MIAMI

# Friday, June 24, 2022

1 Timothy 4:12 says, “Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”

Even though we’re young, we still need to be an example for Christ. There are many people in the world that you’ll come across that will try and tell you that you can’t do something because you’re young. Many times, that isn’t true. And any Christian can preach God’s Word no matter how old or young they are. There’s no age limit to loving God, so don’t let people tell you there is.

Earn respect by setting an example. And live so others see Christ in you! As examples, we need to be careful in what we say and how we say it. We need to act in a way that pleases God. We need to be kind even when others aren’t towards us. I have a shirt that has the letters “WWJD” and “HWLF” which stand for “What would Jesus do” and the answer is, “He would love first.” We should do the same. We should also trust that God will work in and through us, and we should obviously be pure. Purity is defined as freedom from contamination or pollution, so the idea is that we should be aware of what we allow to influence us because we should be following our Father. Lastly, when we fail, we should be quick to ask for forgiveness from God and from someone else if they were hurt by our actions.

The world we live in is so broken, and we need people of any age to step up and lead people because that’s what God wants us to do. And that’s why we have the Holy Spirit inside of us—to give us the wisdom and knowledge to guide people with love. God can use and call anybody at anytime in life. If you are a Christian, you have been called by Him. And living a Christian lifestyle isn’t just about how much you know, it’s about how dedicated you are to understanding and following God’s Word. Billy Graham said, “We are the Bibles the world is reading; we are the creeds the world is needing; we are the sermons the world is heeding.” So I pray that we will be examples like Christ was and that God will not only work through us on our trip to Miami, but also in our daily lives because we need to cling to Him and His Word every second.

— Ah-Gust Overbeck



# Saturday, June 25, 2022

Philippians 4:13

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

What Paul is trying to tell us here is that Christ gives the strength to do everything that is for His will. Sometimes this verse can be misused in the way that we get strength from God to do everything. Sometimes we want to do something, but it is not God’s will for us. God will give us the strength to do everything that He has planned for us in our lives. This verse reminds me of the David and Goliath story. God gave David the strength to defeat the biggest and the baddest of the Philistine’s army. David was the youngest of all 8 sons of Jesse, and probably the weakest one too. God’s will for David was to defeat the giant Goliath. If it is His will for you, He will give you the strength to defeat the Giants in your life.

— Dabbs Matthews



# Sunday, June 26, 2022

## IN THE WORLD, BUT NOT OF THE WORLD

Living “in the world, but not of the world” can sound strange, but I want to point you to a few verses in Scripture about what that might mean for us at home in Nashville and also while we are in Miami. 1 John 5:19 says, “We know that we are children of God and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.” The first part of John 15:19 says, “If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own.” Then James 4:8 says, “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.”

Many things around us demand control of our thoughts and time. Lots of us have busy schedules crammed full of school stuff, sports, and work, or whatever. Even though most of those are good things, sometimes we get so wrapped up in our own plans and activities that we don't leave much room for God to have our time and thoughts. It is easy to get too tired or stressed with our own stuff to even want to show up for church or give much effort to serving or singing. Let's encourage each other to give our best on this trip and also this next school year. If we are living lives that do not look any different from the lives of people who are not following Christ at all, then we are probably not following close enough and it is up to us to draw near again. One way to do this is to think about what we can give of ourselves every day, instead of thinking about what we can get out of it. The world tells us to think about what we can get for ourselves. We can give songs of worship and we can give our time and attention to other people in a way that is showing them God's love and lives that look different.

— Lance Rodriguez

