

**Bible e-Study** on the book of Acts (2:13)

**AND THUS IT BEGINS**

*13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, 'They have had too much wine.'* Acts 2:13

**NUGGET** – Can you believe this? *Some, however, made fun of them...*? I mean, where's the respect and honor? Where's the reverence and fear? Why aren't these people impressed by what's happening in front of them?

We have perhaps have become so used to this story that we skim right past this little detail. As today is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Pentecost the gospel reading for today (*Matthew 10:5a, 21-33*) includes these words from Jesus: "**You will be hated by everyone because of me**" and "**If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!**" And how the people on this day in Acts 2, the Day of Pentecost, treat the disciples at first, reflects the truth of what Jesus had to say.

Right out of the gate, on the first day of the new Christian church, people are ridiculing the followers of Christ. And it has been ever so down to today. I bring this up because being made fun of is no fun at all. All of us know this. And we know that people use such, so-called 'humor', as a way to deflect their own:

- ignorance or
- fear or
- hatred

And in the nugget verse the disciples are accused of being drunk. So how do the disciples handle it? Do they leave in shame or embarrassment? No! In fact they confront their accusers head on and let the chips fall where they may.

St. Peter steps right into the breach and flatly denies the accusation of drunkenness. And from there he goes on to give the first evangelistic sermon of the Church. We all know that the result of that was thousands being added to the church that day, by the work of the Holy Spirit through Peter's preaching.

And yet none of that would have happened had the ignorance not been met with scripture; had the fear not been met with faith; had the hatred not been met with love. St. Peter preached the cross of Christ to the people who ridiculed the disciples, to the people who were involved in the crucifixion of Christ!

That is what we also are given by the Holy Spirit - the power to respond with the telling of the gospel when we too are 'made fun of' for our faith. The ridicule, Peter made into an opening for a clear presentation of the reason for Jesus death and resurrection. We may tend to think that was easy because, after all, he was St. Peter. Perhaps, but not yet at this point. He was still the guy who denied Jesus 3 times and the guy who nearly drowned because of his lack of faith. He now had, however the same Holy Spirit that you have, given to Him by grace through faith alone. That is what allowed him, and the church of today, to respond to ridicule without fear.

**APPLICATION -**

1. What Peter did required a knowledge of scripture. Find a bible story about the gospel you like and memorize the fine points of it. Not that you'll use them all, but that you'll have a handle or two to rely on when the Holy Spirit gives you an opportunity to respond to the ignorance and fear you encounter when someone learns you a follower of Jesus Christ.

**PRAY** - Ask God the Holy Spirit to be with you for strength when you face ridicule for your faith.