

From: M J Weatherford mcats2@aol.com
Subject: Re: Servants of the Most High God
Date: September 16, 2016 at 9:42 AM
To: St. Francis Episcopal Church vicar@stfrancisva.org



On Sep 14, 2016, at 8:19 AM, St. Francis Episcopal Church <vicar@stfrancisva.org> wrote:

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St Francis





September 14, 2016

Servants Of The Most High God

She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation."

Acts 16:17

Who Is The Center?

Sometimes you will hear a negative news story about a celebrity or political figure. The supporters of that person may come to the defense of the celebrity. Some supporters may say that any PR, even bad PR, helps get the

name and message out there. The reading from Acts for Morning Prayer this morning shows an example of bad PR. A slave girl who was a fortune teller started following Paul and the others around saying they are servants of the Most High God who show the way of salvation. On the surface it sounds great- just what Paul and the church would like to have spread around. But Paul soon came to the end of his rope, and cast a demon out of the girl so that she would stop following them around saying that. What annoyed Paul about this?

Good PR?

So, wait a minute. Isn't any PR actually helpful? Sometimes, in some situations, but not in this one. There is a challenge to us here. Who do we want to promote? Is it our activities, our church, our program? Or, is it Jesus? Sometimes they may be the same. The key is pay attention to Jesus, look to Him, and then join in with what He is doing.

What About You And Me?

What this young girl was saying as she followed Paul and the others around was drawing attention to Paul and his companions. Even with calling Paul and friends "servants of the Most High God" there is not a real reference to Jesus. Paul did not want to be the center of attention. He wanted Jesus to be the center of attention. It is Jesus who is the center of all things, the Alpha and Omega. It is in lifting up Jesus that everyone is drawn to Him. It is Jesus that must increase. That is the focus and mission Paul pursued as the Apostle to the Gentiles. He invited people to imitate Him only as He imitated Christ.

Coming Attractions

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Theology on Tap, 6:30pm at Keegan's. Contact Richard at

richardandhedy@yahoo.com

Caregivers' Support Group 7:00pm at Walker's. Contact Hedy at

hedy@equity-concepts.com

Sunday, September 18, 2016 Worship at 10:00am

Sunday, September 24, 2016

Symphony at 9:00am at *Symphony Manor*. Contact Bobbie at

bobbiedrew@yahoo.com

Worship at 10:00am

Please bring nonperishable food to worship to be distributed to the Food Pantry of the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For JJ's Sea Food, Jason Cuthrell, owner, that business would increase and many families in this area would be served.

The Diocese of Virginia

For the work of the House of Bishops

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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