

# **The Church's effect on the community**

# Saint Nicholas



# Saint Patrick



**Saint Patrick  $\neq$  Green  
Beer**

# What we know about Patrick

- ▶ Raised in a Christian home
- ▶ Came to faith after being sold into slavery
- ▶ Received direction from God to escape home
- ▶ Received direction from God to return
- ▶ Was effective in bring many in Ireland to faith in Christ

**The Spiritual**

**The Physical**

# The Empirical (Physical)

- ▶ Your Job
- ▶ Your leisure activities
- ▶ Your Home life

# The Transcendent (Spiritual)

- ▶ Origins
- ▶ Purpose
- ▶ Destiny



**The Spiritual**

**The Middle**

**The Physical**

# The “middle-level”

- ▶ Unknown events
- ▶ Accidents
- ▶ Misfortunes

# Man's ways of addressing the middle

- ▶ horoscopes
- ▶ fortune telling
- ▶ tarot cards
- ▶ good luck charms
- ▶ spells
- ▶ omens

# A Thought:

Patrick's way of addressing the "middle"  
prayer .

# Two scriptures to hold in balance

*(2 Cor 6:17 NIV) "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."*

*(Mat 28:19 NIV) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

# Finding favor in the community

*(Acts 2:44-47 NIV) All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being*

# How did they find favor in the community?

- ▶ They were generous
- ▶ They met together for worship
- ▶ They met together for fellowship
- ▶ They praised God

# Highly regarded by the people

*(Acts 5:13-15 NIV) No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by.*



# The Church grew

*(Acts 9:31 NIV) Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.*

# Peter in Lydda

*(Acts 9:32-35 NIV) As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the saints in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years. "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and take care of your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up. All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.*

# A need in Joppa

*(Acts 9:36-37 NIV) In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas ), who was always doing good and helping the poor. About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room.*

# Peter in Joppa

*(Acts 9:38-40 NIV) Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!" Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up.*

# The result

*(Acts 9:41-42 NIV) He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.*

# Was it just Peter?

*(Acts 28:7-9 NIV) There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and for three days entertained us hospitably. His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured.*

# Was it just an Apostle?

*(Acts 8:12-13 NIV) But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.*

**God**

**The Middle**

**The Physical**



# How do we respond?

- ▶ Have you come to faith in Jesus Christ?
- ▶ Do you have God involved in every level of your life?
- ▶ In what way is God prompting you to be in influence in your community?
- ▶ Are you responding to God through action?

# Conclusion