

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quote from *Church History*:

"If the giving of the Law, while it was yet unbroken, was attended with such a display of awe-inspiring power, what will that day be when the Lord shall, with flaming fire, take vengeance on those who have willfully broken that Law?"

- Charles Spurgeon
(1834-1892, British Baptist preacher – called the "Prince of Preachers")

Scriptures for Today: Acts 5:1-42

The Believers Calling – fear God and Go, Stand and Speak!

NOTES

PRINCIPLES

1. Ananias and Sapphira sinned **against God** and He struck them **DEAD**. 5:1-16

- ✓ This couple's **lie** to the church was a lie **against the Holy Spirit** and **God Himself**...
Exodus 20:16; Joshua 7:20; Luke 15:18, 21; 1 Samuel 15:22; 1 John 3:4; Eph 4:30; 1 Thess 5:19
- ✓ The Bible says that as a result, "**great fear**" came upon **the church** and all that heard...
Luke 8:37; Revelation 11:11; Deuteronomy 13:11; 21:21; Numbers 16:34; Joshua 7:20-24; 22:20; 1 Samuel 6:19-21; 2 Kings 2:24; 1 Chronicles 13:12; Nehemiah 13; Psalm 119:120; Proverbs 16:6

NOTE Woe to the born-again Christian that has no fear of God!! The Bible says that one of the characteristics of lost people is that there is "no fear of God before their eyes" (Rom 3:18). As a result, they have pleasure in sin and do not even care. How foolish they are. The very next verse tells us what God has designed to wake them up to the knowledge of their sin – the 10 Commandments (Rom 3:19-20)! Beware, just because a person is saved, doesn't mean he is now sinless – oh no! When you get saved, you still have your wretched sin nature. But alas, "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Prov 1:7) and "by the fear of the LORD, men depart from evil." (Prov 16:6) People often think the God of the OT is a God of wrath, but the God of the NT is a God of grace and mercy. The reality is that the God of the OT is the same as the God of the NT!! The Bible says He never changes! Jesus warned that He was to be feared because He had the power to cast the body and soul into hell (Matt 10:28). Paul said that he persuaded men because he knew the "terror of the Lord" (2 Cor 5:11). Beware and take heed to yourself. When people do not fear God or the consequences of their sins against Him, trouble and possibly even death will be coming to their house (1 Cor 11:30)!! Wake up church!! Be sure of this one thing – according to the Holy Spirit and the Bible He wrote – your sin will find you out!! (Num 32:23)

2. In the face of **enemy attacks**, the apostles were told to **Go, Stand** and **SPEAK**. 5:17-32

- ✓ They **immediately** obeyed going **early** in the morning and **taught**...
Matthew 4:22; Acts 8:26; 1 Samuel 15:22
- ✓ **Christ crucified** was the center of their message and **repentance** and **forgiveness of sins**...
Acts 5:28-31; Acts 1:8; 2:36; 4:10; 1 Corinthians 1:23; 2:2; Acts 17:30-31; 20:21; 26:20

- ✓ Once again, they said **they were witnesses** of these things...and **so is the Holy Ghost**...
John 16:8-12; Acts 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:19

NOTE The apostles said, "And we are his witnesses of these things; **and so is the Holy Ghost**, whom God hath given to them that obey him." We must always remember that the Holy Ghost is the power source within us to be a witness (Acts 1:8). However, we are reminded through this verse that God gives the Holy Spirit to all that obey Him and get saved. And, that He is a witness for Christ. That means, that when we do not open our mouth for our Lord Jesus Christ and be a witness for Him, we are actually "**quenching**" the Holy Spirit (1 Thess 5:19) who desires to **SPEAK** with our words, and we are "**grieving**" the Holy Spirit by sinning against Him instead!! Do you see that in verse 32? God has given you the Holy Spirit to be a guide and a teacher for certain. And, He has most assuredly given you the Holy Spirit so that you will **Go, Stand and Speak** on His behalf!! As Mark Cahill says, There is only one thing you can't do in heaven – witness to the lost who are going to perish! We know why we are here. The Lamb was slain for the lost and He deserves them! We must not sin against Him by keeping quiet any longer!

3. The apostles **rejoiced** to be counted **worthy** to **suffer** shame **for Christ's name**. 5:33-42

- ✓ God used Gamaliel – a doctor of the **law** – to **protect** His faithful servants...
Acts 5:34; 20:30; Matthew 16:18; Paul was taught by this man...Acts 22:3
- ✓ The apostles **rejoiced to suffer** for Christ and **ceased not** to witness and teach **daily**...
Matthew 5:11-12; Luke 21:12-19; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Philippians 2:12

NOTE What can we say to these things? We do not know what it is like to suffer for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ like these men and many others throughout Church History. We do not understand because we are Laodiceans. We think we are good. We think we are righteous. We think we are rich. We think we are increased with goods and have need of nothing. We know so much. We have so much. We have such liberties. We have such blessings. We have such technologies. We have such conditions ripe for sin and the pleasure of it. The reality is that we are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. (Rev 3:17) The enemy's goal is to get us to keep our mouth shut. He does not want us to speak in the name of Jesus. But, God forbid that we should keep silent and quench the Holy Ghost who is in us any longer!! We must **go**. We must **stand**. And, we must **speak**. No matter what their faces look like. No matter what the consequences may be. It is every believer's calling.

PRACTICES

1. What **truth from the Bible** has God made clear to you today that you **must believe**?

- ✓ Have you **been taught** something that goes contrary to what the **Bible clearly says**?
- ✓ Did God reveal a need for you to **speak** today's truth to others this week?

2. What has God revealed to you today about **you**?

- ✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
- ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to do differently beginning today?

** MARK YOUR CALENDAR – Upcoming Events **

1. **New Members Class** The first new Members class started today, **Sunday, 10/6 from 9-10am** (6 weeks)
2. **How to Study the Bible** **Wednesdays at 7-8pm** Children's ministry and youth group teaching time also during this time.
3. **Prayer Meeting** **Wednesdays at 6:30pm** We must be a house of prayer (Matthew 21:13)
4. **Open House** The month of October is a "**Grand Opening**" to the community – invite others to check us out for free. ☺