

Putting Feet to Your Faith

Acts 5:15-42

- At this point the disciples have been threatened by the religious leaders not to teach or heal in the name Of Jesus, but instead of shrinking away from the charge that they've received from the Lord they continued to minister to all those who God placed in their path. The result of all this is people's lives are changing, the church is growing, and the city of Jerusalem is buzzing with excitement, as more and more opportunities continue to present themselves to the Apostles.

V15-42

- **V15-16** case in point word has spread to the surrounding villages and cities outside of Jerusalem that a line has formed to get into the city in order to bring those who are sick and in need to the Apostles expecting them to be healed. When reading this people have a tendency to focus on the miracles being done and forget **V14** that says people were getting saved, as important as it was that people were being healed of greater importance was that they were being saved.
- For every good deed that a believer does should be in hopes that we can reach a lost soul and have them come to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. **V17-18** word has not just spread through the streets but also reached the ears of those who had threatened the Apostles not to teach or heal in Jesus name. So the High Priest and his followers instead of having a change of heart because of all the good deeds and joy that's being manifested in people's lives make good on their threats being moved by anger and jealousy have Peter- John arrested and imprisoned.
- **V19-23** we see another example of the enemy using intimidation and interrogation to try and silence the voice of the Lord, but what we must remember is that growth and opposition go hand in hand, for when God is moving Satan is going to be opposing. What the enemy means for evil God turns it around for His good, as the Lord sends an Angel to go and set the Apostles free, and then sends them back into the fray by telling them to go to the temple and speak to the people "**the words of Life**" this is our mission, not self preservation, but furthering the gospel.
- When the council is ready to interrogate them they send for the Apostles, and I love what the officers said, the prison doors were still locked, the guards were present and awake, but the jail cell was empty. You see no devices of man can keep the gospel from doing exactly what God desires it to do, not a jail cell, an act from congress, or threats upon our lives is going to stop the gospel from going forth, even if the Lord has to send an Angel from heaven to intervene so be it.
- **V24** one would think that at least someone would have said "hey we've been down this road **before**" > **Math 28:11-13**- when Jesus tomb was empty instead of facing the truth they paid the guards to lie saying that the disciples came and overpowered trained guards and stole the body.

- **V25-28** this miracle of supernaturally setting the Apostles free wasn't just for those who were in the jail cell, but for those who put them there. Our changed lives benefit us first but then it should also testify to those around us from family, to friends, and even those who want to keep you silent. Notice the Apostles don't resist arrest, or tell the people to organize a protest, but instead they quietly went with the guards to stand before the high priest and his council.
- Once there the indictments began to fly saying "**did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name**" he purposely avoided using the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and because of your defiance the whole city is now talking about Jesus once again. Incredibly although they had paid Judas **30** pieces of silver to betray Jesus, and lied to the Romans about what He said and taught, they were still under the impression that they were innocent in Jesus death, you talk about delusional, this is how people who refuse to repent think, it's all about denial and blame shifting
- **V29-32** although they did everything they could to avoid using "**the name of Jesus**" they couldn't deny "**the power of Jesus**" as Peter makes sure that it stare's them right in the face. For he tells them that their fight is not with them but with God as Peter says in disobeying them he was in essence obeying God, and to obey them was to then disobey God. This is the same thing they said in **Acts 4:19-20**, so they hadn't changed their convictions, but also by telling them about the murder, and consequently the resurrection of Jesus meant they also hadn't changed their message in order to avoid any consequences; this is boldness in the face of death.
- If any left the initial court proceedings thinking they were innocent of the blood of Jesus, they certainly couldn't this time, as Peter tells them they were guilty. This is so important when speaking about the Lord, make sure that whomever your speaking to must realize it's not someone else's fault that Jesus died, but it's also their fault, they are just as guilty. **V33-39** upon hearing this they became even more angrier than when they first arrested them, and tried to find a way in which they could kill them without it coming back to them for an illegal execution.
- Gamaliel a noted scholar who was renowned for knowing the scriptures, church history tells us that he was the man in which Paul the apostle studied under. He speaks up and reminds them that if they really believed that what the disciples were teaching was false then it like so many others who rose up declaring themselves as the Messiah, movement would come to nothing. But if it relay is of the Lord then you find yourself fighting against the Lord and you can't win.
- God uses his speech to stay their anger, and it sounds good-scholarly, but it's also sad because Gamaliel had seen the crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus, and now he's witnessing the miracles of His followers, and still he says let's wait and see if this is really of God, what more did he need to see, in truth Gamaliel was a fence sitter. **V40-42** although they didn't kill them they did beat them, and not just any beating but one that involved being skinned, but it didn't stop them as they continued to teach-preach the gospel and people kept coming to the Lord.