

Consistent Understanding

Acts 5:22-42

vs. 25, Look! They are back on your porch.

vs. 27, Didn't we already make ourselves clear?

Where is the focus of the rulers and authorities?

SELF

Question: How are we so focused on self that we are missing God's activity all around us?

vs. 29, We must obey God rather than people.

vs. 30-32, the God of our ancestors.

- He raised up Jesus. (The resurrection is real).
- You were involved in his crucifixion.
- God has not been deterred. He is the Messiah and King.
- He gives repentance (to Israel) and forgiveness of sins.
- We are witnesses to this truth.
- The Holy Spirit has been given by God to those who obey him (embrace this reality).

Repentance itself is a gift from God. It is something the Holy Spirit brings about.

Acts 11:18 When they heard this they became silent. And they glorified God, saying, "So then, God has given repentance resulting in life even to the Gentiles."

2 Timothy 2:25 instructing his opponents with gentleness. Perhaps God will grant them repentance leading them to the knowledge of the truth.

Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and discipline. So be zealous and repent.

John 16:1-11

Galatians 5:16 I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh.

John the Baptist -> **Matthew 3:8,11b-12** Therefore produce fruit consistent with repentance. **11b** He himself will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **12** His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn. But the chaff he will burn with fire that never goes out."

Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

vs. 33, Gamaliel (a Pharisee)

Shammai - viewed the law in the strictest sense.

Hillel - viewed law keeping as a matter of the heart.

- The Mishnah says this, "Since Rabban Gamaliel the elder died there has been no more reverence for the law; and purity and abstinence died out at the same time."

What will history tell us?

vs. 36, Theudas (4 BC not AD 44)

vs. 37, Judas the Galilean (AD 6)

vs. 38, If this work is of human origin it will fail.

vs. 39, If from God it cannot be stopped.

vs. 40, From a sentence of death to a public beating.

1st encounter -> Acts 4:3, 21 / Response -> Acts 4:29 (boldness)

2nd encounter -> 5:17-18, 40 / Response -> 5:41 (rejoicing)

Flashback to Jesus

Luke 6:22-23 Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you, insult you, and slander your name as evil because of the Son of Man.

23 “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy. Take note—your reward is great in heaven, for this is the way their ancestors used to treat the prophets.

Matthew 5:10-12 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

11 “You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. **12** Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

vs. 41, They left rejoicing.

They were counted worthy to be treated shamefully on behalf of Jesus.

vs. 42, Undeterred -> everyday they continued to teach in the temple and in various homes.

Jesus is the Messiah.

Question: Do you have an understanding that the works and actions of the triune God are consistent? What does steadfast peace look like in your everyday life of faith? What shame is Jesus asking you to not allow, through the Spirit, to take hold of your life? Are you aware of the things that are of God? Are you participating in those things? Are you willing to see failure in your life as a sign of “not God’s best” for you?