

Am I Willing to Pay the Human Cost of Kingdom Growth?

Acts 28:25-31, part 2

October 22, 2023

How did the Good News spread from Acts 4:17 “But so that it will not spread any further among the people, let us warn them to speak no longer to any man in this name.” **to Rome:**

Acts 28:31 preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.?

Observe what the Apostles endured through the account of **Acts:**

4:18 they commanded them not to speak or teach

5:18 put them in a public jail.

5:40 flogged them

7:58 they began stoning him

9:1 breathing threats and murder

9:23 plotted together to do away with him,

12:2 put to death with a sword.

12:3 to arrest Peter also. . .

13:50 drove them out of their district.

14:5 to mistreat and to stone them,

14:19 they stoned Paul and dragged him out

16:23 struck them with many blows

16:24 threw them into the inner prison

20:3 a plot was formed against him by the Jews

21:31 they were seeking to kill him

23:12 neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul.

24:27 Felix left Paul imprisoned.

27:20 all hope of our being saved was gradually abandoned.

28:3 . . . a viper came out . . . and fastened itself on his hand.

28:16 . . . Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him.

The Apostles were not afraid to die.

2 Corinthians 4:5-12 *The Apostle Paul was willing to give his life, so that others could hear the words of life.*

Divine cost of Kingdom growth?

Divine Death, on the cross, leading to life for us!

Human cost of Kingdom growth?

Our death, leading to life for others!

Notice the distinction between the Good News of the Gift of God in Jesus Christ, and the high cost of joining Jesus' mission of sharing the Good News with the world:

John 4:1-42; v10 Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”

The living water is the message that eternal life is by believing in Jesus, the Promised One. When the message is believed, it produces eternal life, a gift.

Luke 14:25-33; v33 “So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

Jesus is the “man” in v30, and the “king” in v31; He came to bring living water, and He could not allow His mission to fizzle because of half-hearted, half-committed co-workers.

Eternal life is a free gift, but discipleship is expensive; it requires us dying to ourselves. If we are to become partakers of the mission of Jesus Christ to spread the Good News of the free gift, then we must pay the human cost of discipleship.

Romans 12:1 *The Holy Spirit, through the Apostle Paul, states this another way: presenting our bodies a living sacrifice.*