

I. What Religious Arrogance Looks Like (27-33)

A. Offended shock from those in charge (27-28) - "And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us."

B. Plain-spoken response by the believers (29-32) - "We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging Him on a tree. 31 God exalted Him at His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."

C. Unrepentant plans to silence the truth (33) - "When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them."

II. What Tempered Wisdom Sounds Like (34-39)

A. An open mind among the closed (34-35) - "But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. 35 And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men.""

B. A macro-view among the micro (36-37) - "For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. 37 After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered."

C. A humble solo among within a proud chorus (38-39) - "So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice."

**We must leave room for the reality that God may choose to operate in ways
for which we have no expectation nor understanding.**

III. What Sacrificial Obedience Feels Like (40-41)

A. You may feel the initial sting (40) - "When they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go." **Physical pain, shame, humiliation, accusation**

B. You will feel the Father's pleasure (41) - "Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

C. You will feel a strengthening of your purpose (42) - "And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ."