

ACTS 5:17-42

Main Point: The Church is THE Pillar of Truth

*"... This is the church of the living God, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth."
1 Timothy 3:14-15*

Digging Deeper

Truth is under attack!

In the narrative presented here in Acts chapter 5, the apostles are in the crosshairs for teaching in the name of Jesus Christ. Interestingly enough, the high council is working hard to deny the truth about Christ. They first arrested the men "without violence" because they were afraid the mob of people would stone them. As the men were questioned they responded "We must obey God rather than men!". At this the council was furious. Why? Their position as 'The religious authority' was being challenged. They were afraid to lose their position or power. The apostles were ultimately released from this and beaten. But they counted it a blessing to suffer for the truth. This story really shows us some of the differences between truth and lies, and how human character responds to each.

1. Lies are motivated by fear. v26
2. Lies do not want to be challenged v33
3. Truth is always unashamed and bold. V29-32
4. Truth will always be under attack v40 (**Romans 1:18**)

After the trial, a pharisee by the name of Gamaliel stepped up and offered some faulty logic. But his final point has something to offer all of us. In regard to what the apostles were doing he said "But if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You may even find yourselves fighting against God!" Acts 5:39 **The world may try to suppress the TRUTH but it will never be able to STOP IT!** Do you live the Truth with that kind of confidence?

Discussion Questions

1. In your life, what have you allowed fear to motivate you to do, or not to do? How does faith instill confidence? how do lies or fear instill doubt or Instability? (**James 1:5-8**)
2. In what ways do we see the enemy (the world) trying to suppress the truth? (Politics, Workplace, Church?)
3. The apostles rejoiced for being counted worthy to suffer for God's truth. In what ways do we try to make it easier to be a Christian in America? In what ways do we sacrifice or suffer for His truth?
4. The Church is a 'Pillar of Truth.' The Pharisees would have also considered themselves the pillar of God's truth. What makes us different? (Man's wisdom vs God's?)
5. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 teaches that all of Scripture is God-breathed and useful to prepare us to do every good work. What does that mean to you?