

Sermon Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

What was most challenging, helpful, or troubling in the sermon?

Digging Deeper:

1. See Acts 4:23-24. Put yourself in the shoes of the early Christians. What was at stake for them in staying faithful to the gospel? Think (Dreams and hopes, anxious thoughts, reputation.)
 - a. Reflect: "The cross is laid on every Christian. The first Christ-suffering which every man must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world." What does this mean? Someone you know asks you, "What does it mean that following Jesus is costly?" how would you explain?
2. When the early church faced threats and persecution, their first response was to pray together rather than strategizing. What is your initial disaster response reaction? What does this reveal about where one places their trust and confidence?
 - a. What could make praying with others inconvenient or unnecessary?
3. Read Psalm 2. Why must the Messiah be a king? What would be missed if Jesus was just a prophet and priest? See 2 Sam 8:15 Isa 2:4.
4. Reflect: "The personal dimensions of Christianity are difficult to maintain and practice consistently unless they grow out of a proper corporate experience on a regular basis...corporate prayer [is] the context in which personal prayer becomes meaningful." How has your prayer life learned from praying with the church?

Empowered by the Holy Spirit:

5. Pray:
 - a. Where does hope feel distant or forfeited? Pray together to sustain hope for each other. Use psalms 2 or other scripture to highlight hope. See Psalm 121 and 61 for help.