

“WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN” - Acts 5:12-32

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by Pastor Chuck Smith, David Hocking, John Stott, Vernon McGee, Warren Wiersbe and others.

THEIR OPPORTUNITIES WERE GREAT!– VS.12-16

Act 5:12 And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch.

Act 5:13 Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly.

Act 5:14 And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,
Act 5:15 so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.

Act 5:16 Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

THEIR OPPORTUNITIES WERE GREAT! – vs. 12-16

v. 12 “through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people.” - Many miracles were being accomplished – Look how the Lord blessed/es when sin is out of the camp! The opposite is also true is it not?

v. 14 “believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women”- Believers were being added at an tremendous rate! – “multitudes being added”!! 1 Cor. 16:9; Rev. 3:8

v. 16 “Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem,” - Multitudes were being reached. Notice the separation of those sick and of those who were tormented by unclean spirits. – A remarkable demonstration of the power of God to heal and to set free, just as the power of judgment was demonstrated in the case of Ananias and Sapphira.

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We see here the second wave of persecution whereby Satan is trying to annihilate the church. As this occurs we will see various developing attitudes, especially the deepening jealousy and antagonism of the Sadducees, the moderation of the Pharisees, and the increasing joy and confidence of the Christians.

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OBSERVATION

THE OPPOSITION WAS GROWING- -vs. 17-28

Act 5:17 Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation,

Act 5:18 and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison.

Act 5:19 But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said,

Act 5:20 "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

Act 5:21 And when they heard that, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught. But the high priest and those with him came and called the council together, with all the elders of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

Act 5:22 But when the officers came and did not find them in the prison, they returned and reported,

Act 5:23 saying, "Indeed we found the prison shut securely, and the guards standing outside before the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside!"

Act 5:24 Now when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these things, they wondered what the outcome would be.

INTERPRETATION

THE OPPOSITION WAS GROWING- vs. 17-28

v. 17 "and they were filled with indignation (jealousy)" - The reason behind the opposition

v. 18 "laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison." Seen in the arrest of the apostles – Acts 5:17-26

v. 16 "an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out" - The release of the apostles – Acts 5:19-21a

"angel of the Lord" in Acts:

Acts 8:26 – gives direction to Philip

Acts 10:3-7 – gives direction to Cornelius

Acts 12:7-10 – helps Peter get out of jail- notice he was asleep!

Acts 12:23 – strikes Herod

Acts 27:23-24 – encourages Paul - cf - Psalm 91:11-13; 34:7;

Hebrews 1:14

v. 24 "they wondered what the outcome would be." - The reaction of the Jewish leaders – They were greatly perplexed!

APPLICATION

"Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

Note how this command of the angel of the Lord is in direct opposition to the strict orders by the Sanhedrin not to speak to the people about Jesus!

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Act 5:25 *So one came and told them, saying, "Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!"*
Act 5:26 *Then the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned.*

Act 5:27 *And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them,*

Act 5:28 *saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!"*

THEIR OBEDIENCE WAS GLORIFYING TO GOD – Acts 29-32

Act 5:29 *But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.*

Act 5:30 *The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.*
Act 5:31 *Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.*

Act 5:32 *And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."*

INTERPRETATION

v. 26 “for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned. - The reluctance of the soldiers to take them by force

v. 28 ““Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!” - Seen in the accusations of the council

THEIR OBEDIENCE WAS GLORIFYING TO GOD – Acts 29-32

v. 29 “We ought to obey God rather than men.” - Because they decided to obey God first

vs. 30-31 “The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. [31] Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.” - Because they declared the truth about Jesus

v. 32 “ so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.” - Because they were dependent upon the Holy Spirit

WE OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MAN WHEN MAN IS IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO GOD! WE GLORIFY HIM WHEN WE OBEY HIM FIRST; DECLARE HIS TRUTH AND WHEN WE ARE DEPENDENT UPON THE HOLY SPIRIT!

APPLICATION

Notice how powerful was the witness of the early Christians!

I have decided to follow

Because they decided to obey God first!

Because they declared the truth about Jesus.

Because they were dependent upon the Holy Spirit

Mt. 10:28-39!!!!

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I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS!

1. *I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back.*
2. *Though I may wonder, I still will follow;
Though I may wonder, I still will follow;
Though I may wonder, I still will follow;
No turning back, no turning back.*
3. *The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
No turning back, no turning back.*
4. *Though none go with me, still I will follow;
Though none go with me, still I will follow;
Though none go with me, still I will follow;
No turning back, no turning back.*
5. *Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
No turning back, no turning back.*

Questions: -

1. When one proclaims Jesus, crucified, dead, buried, resurrected and ascended into heaven—and as the only way of salvation, what can you be certain of, that will occur?
2. What statement in the Bible comes to your mind as being one of strongest indication of commitment and dedication to Christ?
3. Who were the religious leaders of that day who were in control?(v. 17) Did they believe in the resurrection?
4. In verse 26, it says they took them without violence. How do you think this happened?
5. What do you see in the accusation in verse 28?
6. Why was the obedience of the disciples in today's study glorifying to God?
7. What three things did they do in verses 29-32?
8. How would you describe the conditions, under which a believer should obey God rather than man? Are we not to obey kings and those in authority?
9. How closely have you decided to follow Jesus?
10. Under what conditions/situations are we to obey God rather than men?