

Home Group Questions

The week of 3/29/2020

Acts 5:12-42

NOT ASHAMED!

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his study of Acts as we moved into the second part of the Acts chapter 5 which dealt with the amazing miracles that God was performing through the apostles and and amazing "escape" from jail.

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Read Acts 5:12-16. Why do you think God was performing such an amazing amount of miracles during this time? Obviously, we believe in a God who can do miracles whenever He chooses to, but here everyone was being healed. Why such powerful demonstration of the power of God?

2. Read Acts 5:17-26. Put yourself in the minds of the Jewish leaders, the guards in the prison, the soldiers who saw the apostles preaching after being in jail, and the people of Jerusalem. What do you think was going through the minds and heart of each of these groups? Even the guards were afraid of being stoned when they brought the apostles to stand before the Sanhedrin. Sometimes we forget how popular the church had become in the city of Jerusalem. How do you think the church can have that kind of reputation in our community today? Obviously, the recent miracle of the resurrection and an empty tomb nearby greatly enhanced the authority of the message in Jerusalem, but what can give our message more authority in our neighborhoods and communities around the church?

3. Read Acts 5:27-32. Peter and the apostles had a tremendous boldness before the Jewish leaders. What do you think causes Christians to often lack that boldness in the world today? What causes people to shy away from speaking about Christ? How can that problem be fixed in our lives as believers in order to have more boldness in our message?

- What does it mean to you in your life that we must "obey God rather than men" (v. 29)? Are there situations in your life where you have had to make that choice? Share with the group how you encountered this situation and the choices you had to make.

4. Read Acts 5:33-42. This is a powerful passage about a man by the name of Gamaliel. He kept the Sanhedrin from killing the apostles (actually God was protecting them), but what do you like about his reasoning? Is that reasoning that we can use today? Where may that reasoning of "if it is of man, it will fail"....and"If it is of God, you won't be able to stop it" fall short in various situations we may face? For example, there are cults that teach a false message yet their influence (in some of these cults) has spread around the world. What is the other determining factor for us as followers of Christ as to when we need to stand up and stop a "movement" that may be happening around us?

- **Verse 42 is powerful** "they rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name" How does that impact your life when you may be dishonored in the future by those who hate the message of Christ?

MOVING FORWARD...

Pray that the world would be free from this virus impacting so many lives and the work of the church. Pray that we can be unashamed and bold in our witness for Jesus Christ!