

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Acts: The Church. Established. Empowered. Expanding - Acts 4:5-31 - Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake - 10.20.2024

- 1. Is there anything specific from this message that the Lord has impressed upon your heart?
If so, what is it & how do you feel the Lord calling you to respond?**
- 2. Have you ever faced any kind of opposition in your life for doing what was right and seeking to glorify the Lord in a situation?
**Remember, in our context it may look more like mockery/ridicule than imprisonment & physical harm like it does in this passage.*
How did you respond in those kinds of situations, & what can you do to stand firm in the face of opposition in the future?
Are there specific Scripture passages that help to provide perspective and encouragement in situations like that?**
- 3. What specific prophecies, commands, and promises does Jesus make in Mark 13:9-11?
As you look at what the apostles face here in Acts 4, how would a passage like Mark 13:9-11 bolster them in the face of that?
As you consider your own experiences as a disciple of Jesus, how does a passage like this strike you?
How does this passage relate to all that we've already seen on display in the book of Acts to this point?**
- 4. How does the Holy Spirit direct Peter to respond to the questioning he faced in the aftermath of the healing God did through him?
How does the boldness of Peter's response astonish The Sanhedrin?
How do his words here essentially lead to him bringing truthful accusations against those seeking to accuse him unjustly?
How do Acts 4:11-12 reveal that the Scriptures foretold of Jesus, and that He alone is the means of salvation?
How should this truth motivate us all the more to be bold in our proclamation of the Gospel?
As you reflect upon how you live your life, do you find that this truth motivates you to share the Gospel with others?**
- 5. How did wrong perspectives/assumptions lead the Sanhedrin to disregard, dismiss, & deny the reality of God's work before them?
Are there ways that our own assumptions (or even self-righteousness) can lead us to overlook/miss or deny the truth of God?
What tools has God provided to us in order to guide us in the truth so we can confidently move forward in His ways in this life?**
- 6. How do the believers respond to all of the adversity they're facing?
I shared in the message that the worst anybody can do to those who are in Christ is to send us into His presence.
Do you believe that this is true, and what difference does this make in how you go about living your life?**
- 7. Below are the "Today's Takeaways" from the sermon. Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, & if so, how?
When questioned about your faith, rely on the Holy Spirit to lead & direct you.
Don't let your own assumptions lead you to miss God's revelation (like the Sanhedrin did here).
*When facing opposition, pray for strength to obey more than for a change in circumstances.***