

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Acts: The Church. Established. Empowered. Expanding - Acts 5:17-42 - Rejoicing When Suffering Unjustly - 11.03.2024

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 unjustly faced suffering/consequences for actually doing what was right in a given situation?
If so, what was the situation and what kind of consequences did you face?
Did the consequences that you had experienced cause you to change how you acted in similar situations afterward?
If you've not faced a situation like this before, how can you prepare yourself now to stand firm in the face of unjust suffering?
What Scripture passages can you find that could be an encouragement to you in times like that?
3. Read Acts 5:14-16 in addition to our passage for the morning of Acts 5:17-42:
As you look at the continual response of the Sanhedrin to the works of God, how does it compare to the response of others?
What does Luke share as the reason for their mistreatment of God's people after they do mighty works in Jesus' name?
What does this reason reveal about what's happening in the hearts of these men and what they value most in life?
I referenced Matthew 27:20, 24-26 in the sermon: how does this reveal hypocrisy in the Jewish leaders with their questioning?
How can we safeguard against the "yeast of the Pharisees (and the Sadducees/Sanhedrin as a whole)?
What specific steps can you take that will help you in responding to the Holy Spirit & avoiding worldly living/thinking?
4. Compare/contrast the Apostle's response in chapter 5 with their response in ch. 4 when they're questioned similarly about Jesus?
What are some consistencies/similarities in their responses, and how are they different (even intensified) in this response?
How do the Apostles react after they are beaten for their obedience and faithfulness to Jesus?
How can we live our lives in such a way that we would also respond similarly if faced with that kind of mistreatment?
What difference does it make to dwell upon the eternal Kingdom of God rather than earthly powers/kingdoms?
How can you do this more consistency and faithfully in your own life - dwelling upon the things of Christ regularly?
5. Below are the "Today's Takeaways" from the sermon. Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, & if so, how?
Fear of the Lord is good; fear of man leads to sin!
Fearing man leads to sin; fearing the Lord is good!
God is the ultimate Authority over all others!
When earthly authority differs; we obey God!
Our hope is ever in the eternal kingdom of Christ!
We do not fear OR hope in any temporal thing!
With faith in Christ, we always have reason for joy!
Even if we suffer in His name, our joy ever remains!