

WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MAN ACTS 5:22-33

Text: Acts 5:29

Introduction:

We have seen the importance of the purity of the church. Once the holy Spirit dealt with the sin that was present at the church in Jerusalem, there was an immediate return of the power and blessing upon the church.

As the church began to move forward, they began to face the opposition of the wicked one. The apostles were imprisoned, and then set free to go, stand and speak all the words of life. They were freed from prison for a purpose.

1. THE CONTINUATION OF THE APOSTLES (VS. 22-25)

Acts 5:22-25

²² But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told, ²³ Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but

*when we had opened, we found no man within. ²⁴
Now when the high priest and the captain of the
temple and the chief priests heard these things,
they doubted of them whereunto this would grow.
²⁵ Then came one and told them, saying, Behold,
the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the
temple, and teaching the people.*

Note: They would not stop preaching Christ!

A. They were out of Prison

God had given the disciples clear instructions as to what they should do when they were released from prison – preach the Gospel again.

B. They were preaching the Word

1 Thessalonians 2:1-2

¹For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain: ²But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

1. We need God-called servants who will continue to proclaim the Gospel.

2. The afflictions that we may suffer are but for a moment. Paul what he suffered as “light affliction.”

2 Corinthians 4:7-18

⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. ⁸ We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. ¹¹ For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. ¹² So then death worketh in us, but life in you. ¹³ We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; ¹⁴ Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. ¹⁵ For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. ¹⁶ For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; ¹⁸ While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the

things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

- Stoned at Lystra (Acts 14)

Acts 14:19

¹⁹ *And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.*

- Shipwrecked (2 Corinthians 11:25)

2 Corinthians 11:25

²⁵ *Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;*

- Imprisoned and beaten with rods at Philippi

2. THE CONTENTION OF THE PERSECUTORS (vs. 26-28)

Acts 5:26-28

²⁶ *Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.* ²⁷ *And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them,* ²⁸

Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

A. The disciples were judged by the Sanhedrin

As the religious “Supreme Court” of the Jewish people, the Sanhedrin sat in judgment on new teachings and cult groups. Their anger toward the apostles was intensified by the fact that the Lord had been crucified just a few weeks earlier, but His crucifixion had not stopped His doctrine and teaching from spreading among the people as they had hoped.

B. The disciples were judged for their message

Note: Many people were listening to their preaching.

Acts 4:4

⁴Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

Note: The Gospel will bring fruit when it is preached.

Note: The services of the early church were not little “Praise Fest.” Church is not about the

people or the pastor or our opinion of others.
The purpose of the church is to lift up Christ.

1. Their preaching was Christ centered.

Acts 2:36

³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

2. It was doctrinal

The message of the apostles was filled with doctrinal content. They were not interested in entertainment, relevance, or crowds. Their preaching was intended to communicate doctrinal truth.

3. THE CONVICTION OF THE APOSTLES (vs. 29-33)

Acts 5:29-33

²⁹ Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. ³¹ Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. ³³ When

they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.

A. Their answer was immediate.

“We ought to obey God.”

Acts 4:19

¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

1. Delayed obedience is disobedience
2. There is no such thing as gradual obedience.

B. Their message was truth

Close:

All of us are faced with opportunities to stand up and be counted for Christ or to shrivel in our faith. We will face times in which we will obey God or obey men. Just as Daniel purposed before his temptation not to defile himself, we need to decide in advance that we will obey God.