Series: Power From On High.
Title: The Church Reaching the World
Lesson: 40

Text: Acts 5:17-32
Date: April 30, 2023

Five features of effective evangelism:

1. Filling of the Holy Spirit

2. Congregational Purity → His power

3. _____

1 Peter 4:14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

2 Timothy 3:13 But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Acts 5:17 But the high priest **ROSE UP**, along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy.

"rose up" [anistemi]

"sadducees" - Theological liberals of their day

"filled with jealousy"

18 They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail.

"laid hands on" [epiballo] -

19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison,

Hebrews 1:14 Are they not all **ministering spirits**, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Why did God choose to send an angel?

19a and taking them out he said, 20 "Go, **STAND** and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life."

"Go, stand and **speak"**

"stand" - [histēmi)] - this is same root word as in (17) when the priest rose up

"the message of this life"

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the **LIFE**; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

4. _____

21 Upon hearing this, they entered into the temple about daybreak and began to teach.

"teach" [didasko] - Imperfect tense

21b Now when the high priest and his associates came, they called the Council together, even all the Senate of the sons of Israel, and sent orders to the prison house for them to be brought.

22 But the officers who came did not find them in the prison; and they returned and reported back, 23 saying, "We found the prison house locked quite securely and the guards standing at the doors; but when we had opened up, we found no one inside."

24 Now when the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them as to what would come of this.

"greatly perplexed" [diaporeo] - confused / baffled

25 But someone came and reported to them, "The men whom you put in prison are **STANDING** in the temple and teaching the people!"

"standing"

26 Then the captain went along with the officers and proceeded to bring them back without violence (for they were afraid of the people, that they might be stoned).

27 When they had brought them, they **STOOD** them before the Council.

"stood"

The high priest questioned them, 28 saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name,

and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us."

29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.

30 "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross.

"God of our fathers"

"YOU had put to death"

31 "He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

"His right hand"

32 "And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."

Implication

1. Opposition is not a sign of failure, it is a sign of

_____.

1 Corinthians 16:8–9 But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost; 9 for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are **many adversaries**.

Acts 26:18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from **darkness to light** and from the **dominion of Satan to God,** that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

2. God is calling us to _____ against our enemies and to _____ Him when the backlash comes.

Discussion Guide

1. Why do we believe that resistance or opposition to us as believers is bad? Give some examples of personal experiences.

2. What are the spiritual benefits to persecution?

   A. Persecution is not new - Hebrews 11:35-38
   B. We are hated because of Christ - John 15:18
   C. We are strengthened in our faith - 2 Cor. 12:10; Ro. 5:3-5
   D. We receive heavenly blessings - Matt 5:10-11
   E. It causes the church to grow - Phil 1:12

3. Look up the following verses about different responses to the gospel, then share how they are different.

   John 16:8; 1 Thess. 1:5

   John 6:61, 66; 2 Tim. 4:3

   John 8:37; 15:18–21

4. What opposition do we face today and what should our standing up to it look like?

ANSWERS: Opposition, Persistence, success, stand up, trust