

Small Group Guide - 4/10/22

Acts 5:33–42 - Rage, Caution, and Joy

Sermon Outline / Notes

1. The Sanhedrin's Response to the Apostles: Rage and Murder (5:33)
 - *The apostles' words sowed the Sanhedrin's hearts.
 - *Their response revealed their rejection and rebellion.
 - *Rejected God's Word (29)
 - *Rejected their guilt (30)
 - *Rejected their Messiah (31a)
 - *Rejected repentance and forgiveness (31b)
 - *Rejected God's witnesses (32)

2. Gamaliel's Response to the Sanhedrin: Caution and Exit (5:34–39)
 - *Gamaliel's advice: Leave the apostles alone.
 - *Gamaliel: Self-appointed saviors can never save.
 - *He was wrong: some things of man do not fail for a long time.
 - *He was right: you cannot overthrow God's plan! (Mt. 16:18)

3. The Apostles' Response to Suffering: Joy and Resolve (5:40–42)
 - *The apostles were beaten and warned again.
 - *Their persecution for Christ produced joy.
 - *They were honored to suffer for Christ's name.
 - *They resolved to continue proclaiming Christ.

Application:

- *Your response to the truth reveals your heart's relationship to the truth.
- *Diffusing a volatile situation takes wisdom and courage.
- *God's plans can never be thwarted or overthrown. Jesus will be glorified, and the church will advance.
- *When we esteem Christ to be of supreme value, we can even have joy in suffering.

Small Group Questions

1. What spoke to you from the Bible passage and sermon Sunday morning?
2. What word picture does Luke use to describe the Sanhedrin's reaction in 5:33? Contrast their response to the crowd's response in 2:36–37? What was different?
3. What did the Sanhedrin want to do with the apostles? Was there any warrant for this action? What do the enemies of truth often want to do with the truth and those who follow it? Why?
4. Who was Gamaliel? What was his advice to the Sanhedrin? What illustrations did he use, and what was the point in using these two examples? Where was he right and where was he wrong in his advice?
5. What happened to the apostles? How did they respond? Why were they honored to suffer dishonor? What did they resolve to do, and how did their mindset affect their resolve?
6. Discuss the normal human response and complaint to suffering, especially persecution. Do we expect to suffer persecution as Christians, or do we believe we are immune to it? Do we really believe Jesus is worth our suffering like the apostles?