



Sermon Notes

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The Message Cannot be Silenced
Acts 5: 12-42 (pew Bible pgs. 913-914)

Jesus said, "A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you." (John 15:20) This is a scenario we see repeated throughout the Book of Acts. Opposition raised its ugly head when God worked through Peter and John to heal a crippled man and the disciples were commanded to keep quiet. Instead, the gospel message was proclaimed with even greater boldness. (Acts 3) Soon thereafter, the growing church faced opposition when Satan attacked from within through the deadly spiritual hypocrisy of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). The result we see in these chapters is that great power + great grace + great fear = great growth, as "more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women." (Acts 5:14)

Today, we see another wave of opposition rise up against the church. And once again, instead of being silenced, the gospel message expands and the church is energized. The early church was commanded the apostles to "speak to the people all the words of this Life." (Acts 5:20) That message cannot be silenced.

Demonstrations of power validate the gospel message (Acts 5:12-16)

Intimidation and incarceration cannot constrain the gospel message (vv 17-26)

Opposition is an opportunity to proclaim the gospel message (vv 27 – 32)

Persecution for the sake of Christ brings joy to the gospel messenger (vv 33 – 41)

Persecution for the sake of Christ does not extinguish the message; it expands it (v.42)

Applications:



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Applications:

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Use this guide to help you reflect upon and internalize today's passage and message! Using a journal or a notebook, follow the daily prompts below. We also use these guides to guide our discussions in our Life Groups each week as we seek to grow together in the Word!

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day and meditate on that portion this week.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, specifically guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Continue to meditate on a memorize the selection you chose from yesterday.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

Read v. 13. What do you think elicited such a response from outsiders looking in? Is this the response from the culture surrounding the church today? Why or why not?

2. What do we learn about how God's people should operate in response to persecution and threat in this passage?

3. If you were to begin to develop a biblical understanding of suffering (resulting from persecution), what could you glean from these verses? How does our own culture corrupt or hinder a proper understanding?

Be > Do

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you gained while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

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Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor
Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor
Jim Fulp: Counseling Pastor
Jason Engle: Pastor of Students & Discipleship
Katie Austin: Children's Ministry Coordinator

Contact Us

336.599.1982
 westwoodroxboro@gmail.com
 www.westwoodfamily.org

Upcoming Events

January 21 - GriefShare begins
 February 1 - Membership Class
 February 9 - Sportsman's Banquet
 March 20 - Church Conference
 April 6 - One Day with God
 April 13 - Mom 2 Mom Spring Sale

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