

“Worthy” - Acts 5:29-42

Ask - “Have you ever had conflicting instructions and had to choose which of them to follow?”

Background - The high priest and Sadducees had put the apostles in jail. During the night, an angel opened the prison doors and released them. The apostles went to the temple and began preaching. They were found there the next morning, and were brought before the Council to be questioned.

“The Apostles’ Courage” - Acts 5:29-32

(v29) Read verses 27-28. What reason did Peter give for defying the Council's orders? Discuss.

(v30-31) What did Peter say to the Council about Jesus and who He was? Why had Jesus come?

(v32) Who were witnesses of these things? Who received the Holy Spirit?

PETER TOLD THE AUTHORITIES THAT THEY WOULD NOT STOP PREACHING THE NAME OF CHRIST, BUT WOULD OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MAN.

“Gamaliel’s Advice” - Acts 5:33-39

(v33-34) when the Council heard Peter’s response, what was their reaction? Who prevented them from acting on it?

(v35-37) What did Gamaliel warn the Council about? What 2 examples did he provide as precedent for his advice?

(v38-39) What was Gamaliel’s advice for the Council regarding the apostles? What was his rationale?

GAMALIEL ADVISED THE COUNCIL TO LEAVE THE APOSTLES ALONE AND ALLOW GOD TO DEAL WITH THEM IN HIS OWN TIME AND WAY.

“The Apostles’ Joy” - Acts 5:40-42

(v40) After deliberation, what did the Council do to the apostles?

(v41) How did the apostles react to the punishment they received?

(v42) Did the apostles comply with the Council’s order? What did they do instead?

THE APOSTLES WERE FLOGGED, INSTRUCTED NOT TO PREACH JESUS ANYMORE, AND RELEASED. THEY DELIGHTED IN THEIR SUFFERING FOR HIS NAME AND WENT OUT PREACHING AND TEACHING JESUS ANYWAY.

Application - The word of God - His commands, statutes, and decrees - take precedence over the laws of man. Whenever they are in conflict, we must follow those of the LORD understanding that such obedience might result in temporal, earthly consequences. We should be willing to endure those consequences joyfully, and consider ourselves blessed for suffering in His name. Can you think of any situations in which man's law is in contrast to God's law? Discuss.