

Sermon Notes

"Responding to Violent Opposition"

Acts 4 & 5

October 21, 2018

- b. What do they ask God to do (4:29-30)?

- c. Luke doesn't record any pleas for protection in 4:24-30. Why do you think the believers apparently didn't make any?

- d. How can you apply the attitudes in 4:24-30 to your own prayer life?

Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

Julie Denker, Family Life Ministries, Little Rock, AR

Pray for the staff at Family Life as they share a parenting video series to strengthen marriages and families.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 10-21-18

Questions adapted from Phyllis J. Le Peau, Acts: Seeing God's Power in Action, A LifeGuide Bible Study, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 2002, pp. 17-19; James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 192-5; Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Acts: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 55-64.

Getting Started:

1. Has being a follower of Jesus ever gotten you into trouble? If so, what happened? How did you feel and respond to opposition?

Digging Deeper:

Read Acts 4:1-31.

2. The Sanhedrin did not doubt that a healing had occurred; they only demanded to know by what authority (power or name, 4:7) the apostles were preaching and healing. Peter responded that his authority came from Jesus. Specifically what did Peter claim about Jesus (4:8-12)?
3. So far, Peter and John had done nothing wrong, and the Sanhedrin couldn't deny the miracle, so at this point they could only issue a command and warning (4:13-18).
 - a. How does Acts 4:1-22 reflect Jesus' teaching in Luke 12:11-12 and 21:12-15?

- b. What does Peter say in 1 Peter 2:13-17 about how to treat human authorities? Does he follow those instructions in Acts?

- c. According to 4:19 and 5:29, under what circumstances must Christians disobey human authorities, and when must we obey human authorities?

- d. Think of a modern situation in which a Christian should disobey the authorities and one in which he should obey.

- e. How can we be sure we are correct when we believe that a command of God authorizes us to disobey leaders? What would you do to verify such a belief?

4. The believers respond to the Sanhedrin's threats by going to God in prayer together (4:23-31).

- a. What do they confess about God? Write down as many observations as you can (4:24-30).