

The Gospel is Everything

Acts 5:12-42

Overcoming struggles in Acts.

- i. God works through us when we persevere through difficulties (Acts 4:1-22).
- ii. Unity strengthens us to survive difficulties (Acts 4:23-5:11).
- iii. Focusing on the gospel minimizes our difficulties (Acts 5:12-42).

Big idea: Focusing on the gospel gets us through our difficulties; so, we prioritize the good news and become unstoppable.

¹² Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. ¹³ None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴ And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, ¹⁵ so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. ¹⁶ The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. ¹⁷ But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy ¹⁸ they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison.

... And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you 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 Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." ³³ When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them ...

³⁸ So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" ⁴⁰ and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Big idea: Focusing on the gospel gets us through our difficulties; so, we prioritize the good news and become unstoppable.

The Gospel is:

1. Good news to the humble (vv. 12-16).
2. Offensive to the prideful (vv. 17-39).
3. Everything to the redeemed (vv. 40-42).

1. Gospel is good news to the humble (vv. 12-16).

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Physical healings teach a spiritual lesson.

- i. God's power heals (Lk 1:35; 9:34; v. 15).
- ii. Humility is required for healing (Jn 3:14; Num 21).
- iii. Only the poor in spirit are healed (Mt 4:23-5:3).

Jesus is good news for the humble.

- i. An invitation for all people (v. 12).
- ii. Expect a divided response (vv. 13-14).
- iii. God's power guarantees results (vv. 15-16).

2. Gospel is offensive to the prideful (vv. 17-39).

¹⁷ But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy ¹⁸ they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison ... And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." ... ³³ When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them ...

Jesus challenges the world's way of thinking

- i. The Sadducees didn't believe in miracles.
- ii. Their pride causes jealousy (vv. 17-18).
- iii. They're filled with anger (vv. 28; 33).

Serving God can be difficult.

- i. God frees us so we can free others (vv. 19-21).
- ii. God left them in jail in chapter 4.
- iii. They were beaten in chapter 5.
- iv. Stephen dies in chapter 7.
- v. Suffering brings opportunities to share Jesus (vv. 29-32).

3. The gospel everything to the redeemed (vv. 40-42).

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Excursus on suffering.

- i. The church was never meant to be a country club.
- ii. In our weaknesses Christ is exalted (2 Cor 12:9).
- iii. We carry our cross, as Jesus carried his (Mt 16:24-28).
- iv. Suffering for the gospel is part of our calling (Phil 1:29).
- v. We experience resurrection power in suffering (Phil 3:10-11).

3 reasons to rejoice during suffering.

- i. We suffer for “the Name” (v. 41).
- ii. We know Jesus as Savior (v. 42a; Jn 12:10).
- iii. The gospel is worth it (v. 42b; Mk 8:36).

Keep on going (v. 42).

- i. Focus on the gospel every day.
- ii. Share Jesus where you live, work and play.
- iii. Help people understand about Christ.
- iv. Tell people the good news of Christ.

Prioritize the good news of Jesus Christ
and become unstoppable.