

October 23, 2011

Willow Park South
Small Group Questions
Acts 5:17-42

- Please read *Acts 5:17-42* together at the beginning of your small group meeting.

As the Apostles were doing many miracles among the people, the high priest and the Sadducees were filled with jealousy and put the Apostles in prison. Once in prison, we see that God sent an angel to free the Apostles and told them to go stand in the temple and proclaim His message.

Why do you think the religious leaders were jealous of the Apostles?

Although both the Apostles and the Jewish religious leaders were trying to serve the same God, why do you think the high priest and Sadducees failed to accept God's message of salvation?

How is the message to proclaim the Gospel that the Apostles received similar to God's commission and calling for us at Willow Park South?

Do you find it difficult to boldly share the Gospel with those in your community?

What motivated the Apostles to speak with such boldness?

In verse 27, we see that the Apostles were arrested a second time and brought before the religious council. The high priest pressed on the Apostles that they must not teach in Jesus' name. Rather than being intimidated, Peter proclaimed the Gospel with boldness.

What reason does Peter give for speaking against the high priest with such boldness?

- **Acts 5:29** (ESV) But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.

When you face intimidating situations, do you have a similar attitude?

After sharing the Gospel, the religious council was "enraged and wanted to kill them" (Acts 5:33 ESV). But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel urged the council to let them go, for he reasoned that if this was not from God, the teachings of Jesus would fade out with time. After beating the Apostles, they let them go.

How did the Apostle's respond?

- **Acts 5:41-42** (ESV) "Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus."

When we face trials while sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, how should our response reflect that of the Apostles?

As we seek boldness to share the Gospel with our community, we see from the Apostles that such boldness only comes from God, not by our own volition. If we want to be bold, then we first need to draw close to God and have our hearts motivated by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.