

EMPOWERED

TRUTHS TO REMEMBER

Acts 5:12 – 42 (ESV)

February 25, 2024

Jon Field, Lead Pastor

MESSAGE NOTES

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. – 2 Corinthians 4:1 (ESV)

Truths to remember in the face of challenges:

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. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, 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 ... But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison.

– Acts 5:12 – 18 (ESV)

- **Remember barriers and setbacks are not a sign of failure or a lack of blessing**

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. – 2 Corinthians 4:1 (ESV)

But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." – Acts 5:19 – 20 (ESV)

- **Remember to go and speak to people the words of life**

And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach. Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council and all the senate of Israel and sent to the prison to have them brought. – Acts 5:21 (ESV)

But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, "We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside." – Acts 5:22 – 23 (ESV)

Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. – Acts 5:24 (ESV)

And someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people." – Acts 5:25 (ESV)

EMPOWERED

Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people. And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, 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." — Acts 5:26 – 28 (ESV)

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

"The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging Him on a tree. God exalted Him at His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him." — Acts 5:30 – 32 (ESV)

- **Remember the Holy Spirit is always our partner in sharing Christ**

Evangelism: "We share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leave the results up to God."

When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. — Acts 5:33 – 34 (ESV)

And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered." — Acts 5:35 – 37 (ESV)

"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;" ... — Acts 5:38 (ESV)

... "but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, 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. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. — Acts 5:39 – 41 (ESV)

- **Remember to rejoice**

And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ. — Acts 5:42 (ESV)

EMPOWERED

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discussion Starter: Share a challenge from your life that has led you to need to trust God more.
- What was one of your biggest takeaways for you from this passage and why?
- Why is it important to remember that barriers and setbacks are not a sign of failure or a lack of blessing?
- Read 2 Corinthians 4:1. We are all called to live lives of ministry in the settings God has placed us in. What area of life may God be wanting to encourage you in with His hope?
- When we face challenges, what are some things God uses to help us not lose heart?
- Read Acts 5:20. What might be your “*temple setting*” that God wants you to be speaking His words of life in? Is it your home, work or a different life situation you are facing?
- Pastor Jon’s definition of evangelism (sharing Christ) is: “*We share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leave the results up to God.*” Who is someone God wants you to be sharing with right now through your words and your actions?
- Read Acts 5:40 – 41. What empowered the apostles to rejoice in the face of persecution and trials?
- Praise God for bringing Pastor Danny Bower to be the next Executive Pastor of ENCOUNTER. Pray for Danny and his wife Kim as they begin a season of transition.