

*ACTS

The Continuing Work of Jesus

*We Must Obey God

Acts 5:17-42

We Must Obey God

➤ *Two Truths About God*

1. God's Sovereignty over Persecution
 - God used an angel to supernaturally release the apostles from jail
 - God used the flawed advise of a Pharisee to preserve the apostles' lives
 - God allowed the disciples to be flogged

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➤ *Two Truths About God*

1. God's Sovereignty over Persecution
 - God can deliver His servants from opposition anytime He sees fit
 - God more often does not choose to deliver His servants but allows persecution

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➤ *Two Truths About God*

2. God's Desire for Gospel Proclamation
 - the immediate purpose of the apostles' release was for them to continue speaking the gospel
 - God sometimes delivers and other times does not deliver from persecution for the furtherance of the gospel

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➤ *Two Effects on God's Servants*

1. Bold Obedience
 - they did not shrink from declaring the gospel in the face of opposition though it's truth was indicting and offensive
 - obeying God means speaking the gospel of Jesus Christ

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➤ *Two Effects on God's Servants*

2. Joyful Suffering

- they could rejoice knowing that suffering is ultimately appointed by God
- they could rejoice in the unique blessing of sharing in the sufferings of Christ

¹¹ "Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

(Matthew 5:11-12)

¹³ but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

(1 Peter 4:13-14)

²⁹ For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

(Philippians 1:29)

¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

¹¹ in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

(Philippians 3:10-11)

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- Persecution, under the sovereign hand of God, is not a hindrance but a health to the church and the furtherance of the gospel