

Sermon Series Title: "Church Beginnings"

Sermon Series Summary: From now until around Easter, we will be in the book of Acts, covering chapters 1-12. After the Ascension of Jesus Christ, we see the NT church being born by the power of the Holy Spirit. Through this series, we see the church being built, the kingdom going forth, and the gospel being proclaimed.

"We are in our "Church Beginnings" sermon series, and through this series, we're going to see that we need to know where we come from to know who we are now and to know who we will become in the future."

Call: Deuteronomy 32:13

Text: Acts 5:17-42

Title: "Suffering in the Church"

Next Week's Call: Deuteronomy 32:35-36

Next Week's Text: Acts 6

Next Week's Title: "The Service of Stephen"

Future Calls: Deuteronomy 32:13, 35-36, 39, 43

Future Titles: "The Sermon of Stephen" (Acts 7:1-53), "The Stone of Stephen" (Acts 7:54-60)

Fallen Condition Focus: There is suffering in this world for Christians.

Christ redeeming FCF: Christ received the ultimate suffering, so we would have life eternal.

Proposition: "We can suffer for Christ, because Christ suffered the ultimate suffering for us on the cross."

Summary: After seeing signs, wonders, and growth in the church, the Jewish leaders imprison the apostles out of jealousy. However, an angel helps them to escape to continue to preach Christ, but they are arrested and tried again. The Jewish leaders tell them not to proclaim Jesus and beat them after hearing Gamaliel's reasoning. This shows us that opposition continues to occur after faithful witness, but we can rejoice because of Christ.

Reflective Questions:

1. What does this passage show us about jealousy and the offense of the gospel? In what ways are we jealous or offended by the gospel?
2. What does this passage have to say about suffering for Christians and God's sovereignty over it?
3. Why do the apostles rejoice in their suffering? How does this speak into our suffering?

I. Introduction

- A. Hook- Sins, signs, suffering; similar to response against Peter for healing the lame man
- B. Transition
- C. Proposition
- D. Points

II. The Confinement (vv. 17-26)

- A. After thousands are converting and apostles are doing many signs and wonders (v. 12), the high priests and Sadducees arrest and imprison the apostles out of jealousy- fame, popularity, respect.
- B. But we see that the angel of the Lord breaks them free (1st of 3 miraculous deliverances from prison in this book).
 1. The angel of the Lord calls the apostles to go back to the temple and preach the words of this Life.
 2. That is what got them imprisoned to begin with!
 3. Life- salvation and life- Bread of Life (John 6), the Life (John 14), Resurrection and the Life (John 11)
 4. Gospel is not just news that saves, but it gives us life today.
- C. Sanhedrin is called together, only to discover the apostles gone. It would have been difficult to find them, but they are found in the same place they always are- at the temple preaching.
- D. The captain with the officers brings them not by force, since they are afraid of being stoned. They try to force the apostles into silent submission through fear, while they are the ones afraid.
 1. Our idols cause us to be afraid.

III. The Conviction (vv. 27-33)

- A. The high priests bring their charge that the apostles have not obeyed them.
 1. Not teach in the name- the name of Jesus.
 2. Man's blood upon us- even though they are the ones who demanded Jesus to be crucified

3. There is offense to the gospel- calling us sinners who are in need of being saved.
 - B. Peter and the apostles share the conviction that they are to obey God rather than men. Boiled down, that is the reason why we should do anything.
 1. Then, they share the gospel boldly, saying exactly what they do not want them to preach: the God of our fathers (continuity), hanging on a tree (cursed, Deuteronomy reference), God's exaltation in ascension to rule and give forgiveness/repentance.
 2. They and the Holy Spirit are witnesses to this truth of Christ.
 - C. Obviously, the Jewish leaders are enraged and want to kill them.
- IV. The Reasoning (vv. 34-39)
- A. Gamaliel, who is well respected, convinces them to calm down and wait.
 - B. Just like Theudas and Judas the Galilean rose up but fell eventually, if Christianity is not of God, then they will fail. But it is of God, they are unable to overthrow them. They may be opposing God.
 1. This is not quite true, since other religions have stood the test of time. But Gamaliel is right in an eternal sense. God's work is unstoppable.
 2. However, this should have provoked him to research and see if Christianity is true.
 - C. They listen to him under God's providence.
- V. The Rejoicing (vv. 40-42)
- A. They beat the apostles and let them go.
 1. Scourge- up to 39 lashes
 - B. The apostles leave their presence, rejoicing, and they continue to proclaim the words of Christ.
 1. Suffering is not a happy occasion, but we can rejoice.
 - C. How can they rejoice?
 1. They are suffering dishonor because of the name.
 2. They have fellowship with suffering with Jesus.
 3. Suffering points us to the ultimate suffering for our sins in Christ.
 4. It also shows us that even if we lose everything, we have everything in Christ. It shows us what is truly important and ultimate.
 5. They can have joy in their Savior who had joy.
 1. Hebrews 12- receiving us was Christ's joy.
 2. He was ultimately arrested, so we may be set free.
 3. Jesus received the ultimate suffering for our sin, the wrath of God, so that we may have life eternal.