

The Witness to Freeing Power

Acts 5:17 Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. 18 They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. 19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. 20 "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life." 21 At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people. When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin-- the full assembly of the elders of Israel-- and sent to the jail for the apostles. 22 but on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there, So they went back and reported, 23 "We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside." 24 On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were puzzled, wondering what would come of this. 25 Then someone came and said, "Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people." 26 At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

Lessons We Will Learn in this Series:

1- The disciples were WITNESSES to the amazing power of God.

And through the Scriptures, we are witnesses WITH THEM.

2- What you DO is what you believe. Everything else is religious TALK.

The CONTEXT:

-- the church had just begun to BREAK OUT of the city walls

-- the ENEMY had to fight back, and what better way to fight back

than to SHUT UP the leaders-- quite literally?

The MOTIVATION:

- 1- Sadducees were motivated by JEALOUSY.
- 2- high priest was motivated by POWER and CONTROL
- 3- apostles were motivated by an ENCOUNTER with God & the desire to share the MESSAGE of new life
- 4- God was motivated by a desire to display FREEING power

The MESSAGE:

- 1- to the people: full message of this NEW LIFE
- 2- to the Sadducees: there's a HIGHER authority

The METAMORPHOSIS:

- JEALOUSY -- BEWILDERMENT -- FEAR
-- note the opposite response from the apostles...
CONTENTMENT -- COURAGE -- CONFIDENCE

The BIG take-home truth...

God FREES people to be who they were CREATED to be!

What Else Do We Learn?

- 1- If we're to be faithful FOLLOWERS, we'll follow the HIGHEST authority.
- 2- The message of "this new life" is IMPORTANT.
- 3- God is a God of immense POWER-- miraculous power.
- 4- Operating outside of the Lord's LEADING, we can create big problems.

Consider:

The early church was FREED to be what they were created to be. From what do we need freed to be all that Christ made us to be?

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Lessons We Will Learn in this Series:

1- The disciples were _____ to the amazing power of God.

And through the Scriptures, we are witnesses _____.

2- What you _____ is what you believe. Everything else is religious _____.

The CONTEXT:

-- the church had just begun to _____ of the city walls

-- the _____ had to fight back, and what better way to fight back

than to _____ the leaders-- quite literally?

The MOTIVATION:

1- Sadducees were motivated by _____

2- high priest was motivated by _____ and _____

3- apostles were motivated by an _____ with God & the desire to share the _____ of new life

4- God was motivated by a desire to display _____ power

The MESSAGE:

1- to the people: full message of this _____

2- to the Sadducees: there's a _____ authority

The METAMORPHOSIS:

_____ -- _____ -- _____
-- note the opposite response from the apostles...

_____ -- _____ -- _____

The BIG take-home truth...

God _____ people to be who they were _____ to be!

What Else Do We Learn?

1- If we're to be faithful _____, we'll follow the _____ authority.

2- The message of "this new life" is _____.

3- God is a God of immense _____ -- miraculous power.

4- Operating outside of the Lord's _____, we can create bigger problems.

Consider:

The early church was _____ to be what they were created to be.

From what do we need freed to be all that Christ made us to be?