



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Triumph over Tyranny: Obeying God More Than Men

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Acts 5:24-33

“But as they heard these words, especially the Captain of the Temple and the chief priests, they were very perplexed about them and what might become of this thing. 25) But someone appeared and reported to them, ‘Behold, the men whom you put in prison are in the Temple, having taken their stand and are teaching the people!’ 26) Then the Captain with the attendants were bringing them, not with force, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned; 27) But having brought them, they stood them in the Council. And the High Priest questioned them, 28) saying, ‘A command we commanded you not to teach in this name, and Behold, you have completely filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are planning (for yourselves) to bring upon, upon us, the blood of this man!’ 29) But Peter and the Apostles, answering said, ‘It is necessary to obey the authority of God more than men. 30) The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you violently seized (for yourselves) and personally killed, crucifying on a tree! 31) God exalted this man as a Ruler and Savior to His right hand, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32) We are witnesses of these words and so is the Holy Spirit which God gave to those obeying Him.’ 33) When they heard this, they were enraged and intended to kill them!”

“THEY WERE NOT AT LIBERTY TO BE SILENT. THEY WERE BOUND TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN THE SANHEDRIN, AND TO MAKE KNOWN EVERYWHERE THE FACT THAT THE LORD JESUS WAS RISEN.”
ALBERT BARNES

Why don't they interrogate the Apostles as to how they escaped from prison first? How had the Apostles gotten by with such flagrant disobedience to the Sanhedrin for so long? Was the second allegation true, or had they cried out for Christ's blood upon themselves at His trial? When are we to obey God more than men? Who is really on trial here, the Apostles or the leaders of Israel? Do sinful men turn from their sin, even when proven wrong & provided salvation for themselves and their nation and even forgiveness of sins?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- MAY 28-30: ACTS 5:34-42 TRIUMPH OVER TYRANNY: FIGHTING AGAINST GOD?
- JUNE 4-6: ACTS 6:1-7 THE KEYS TO WINNING LEADERS: PRAYER AND THE WORD OF GOD

Like Jesus, there was never an opportune time to capture the Apostles after commanding and threatening them to no longer speak in Jesus' name. The Apostles disobeyed daily, openly preaching and praying in Jesus' name at the Portico of Solomon in the Temple, and constantly healing the poor and wealthy afflicted in and around Jerusalem. Their popularity and size of the crowds had exploded so quickly that this movement threatened to engulf the Capital! Finally the Temple Guard violently arrested and imprisoned the Apostles, but now they are openly preaching again to the people in the Temple!

“EVERYTHING WAS AS IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN WITH ONE EXCEPTION—THE PRISONERS WERE GONE!”
JOHN MACARTHUR

I. SPINNING FINAL ACCUSATIONS ACTS 5:24-28

As the Congress of Israel and the senior local legislators wondered what worse thing could happen next, how the Apostles escaped so quickly and easily, if they are hidden somewhere, or what a convened Congress with no

BIBLE STUDIES

- WEDNESDAY @ 9:00AM –BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – BOB EVANS ON RT. 3 AND 12:00NOON – OAKTON – BOB EVANS AT THE 66 AND 123
THURSDAY @ 7:00AM –BIBLE STUDY – CHESTER – SHONEY'S AT RT. 10 (IRON BRIDGE ROAD) & 301(12531 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY)
FRIDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – NORFOLK – GOLDEN CORRAL, 6103 N. MILITARY HWY, NEAR THE NORFOLK AIRPORT

Virginia

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agenda should do, suddenly, a report from the Temple, the Apostles were preaching there since early morning! Hiding would have pointed to inside connections, but openly preaching pointed to miraculous deliverance, and they certainly did not want to hear about it, especially the Sadducees in the majority who didn't believe in any resurrection or angels. Because the people would have been told about the escape, when they get the Apostles again, it was done respectfully, *"not with force, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned."* Rather than the normal questions, the High Priest had only accusations with the best spin to make the Apostles seem to be in the wrong and the leaders look good. Their first accusation assumed greater authority than God (Acts 4:19) in an effort to minimize their murder and silence the aggressive Apostles. Their tyranny had been overcome as civil disobedience was done in obedience to God as they had taught in Jesus' name and had *"completely filled Jerusalem"* with their teaching. Has government changed? Shouldn't this kind of civil disobedience be done in public schools and any other public area where the name of Jesus is forbidden? Second, they spun the accusation to seem as if the Apostles' goal was to falsely indict the leaders with the murder of an innocent person, *"and you are planning (for yourselves) to bring upon, upon us, the blood of this man!"* Yet they had incited the crowds to persuade Pilate to crucify Jesus with these exact words (Matthew 27:20-25).

than men," restating what he had said previously when brought before his leaders (4:19). Silence about Jesus Christ is not an option for these Spirit filled men-it is not just a matter of preference, desire, or even passion, it is a divine obligation to obey the command of God Himself! Obedience to Christ's commission (Mt. 10:18, 28:19-20; Mk. 13:9; Lk. 21:12; Acts 1:8) is more important to them than life itself, and they prove it with their witness before their leaders. Peter boldly yet mercifully proclaims the essentials of the saving Gospel: 1) Recognizing your sin: *"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you violently seized (for yourselves) and personally killed, crucifying on a tree!"* 2) Recognizing Jesus died for your sin, was raised from the dead and exalted to the right hand of God as your Master and Savior: *"God exalted this man as a Ruler and Savior to His right hand."* 3) Repenting of your sins and receiving His forgiveness and Holy Spirit in continual obedience to Him: *"to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. We are witnesses of these words and so is the Holy Spirit which God gave to those obeying Him."* The path to heaven is narrow, it required everything from the one providing it and it requires everything from the one receiving it.

"IN THIS BITTER REPROACH, WE GET A GLIMPSE INTO THE PATHOLOGY OF OPPRESSORS. THOUGH THEY THINK THEMSELVES MIGHTY RULERS, THEY ARE GUILT-RIDDEN AND ARE AFRAID THAT SOMEONE OR SOMETHING WILL DISPLACE THEM. FEAR IS BOTH THE METHOD AND REWARD OF TYRANNY." KENT HUGHES

II. SPIRIT FILLED ACTIONS

ACTS 5:29-32

Peter boldly represented all the Apostles and especially Jesus Christ, *"It is necessary to obey the authority of God more*

"WHOEVER DESIRES TO COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME. FOR WHOEVER DESIRES TO SAVE HIS LIFE WILL LOOSE IT, BUT WHOEVER LOOSES HIS LIFE FOR MY SAKE AND THE GOSPEL'S WILL SAVE IT. FOR WHAT DOES IT PROFIT A MAN IF HE GAINS THE WHOLE WORLD, AND LOOSES HIS OWN SOUL? OR WHAT WILL A MAN GIVE IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS SOUL?" MARK 8:34-37

III. SCORCHING FURIOUS ANGER

ACTS 5:33

Peter and the Apostles had just done before them exactly what they had been forbidden. Rather than receiving Christ as Savior & eternal life, they arrogantly ignite anger against His servants, premeditating to murder them!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Are you silent in regard to Jesus Christ or do you take your stand as a bold witness to the leaders around you?
- 2) Do you side with tyranny in suppressing the truth about Jesus Christ or make laws to force others to disobey His Word?
- 3) Have you ever heeded the Gospel, recognizing your sin, repenting and obeying Jesus Christ as your Savior and Ruler?