



Extreme devotion

Acts 5:17–42

Sunday 4 March 2018

An offensive message (v. 17-18)

“For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life”.

(2 Cor. 2:15-16)

Not called to hide v.19-21a

There is a common, worldly kind of Christianity in this day, which many have, and they think they have enough – a cheap Christianity which offends nobody and requires no sacrifice – which costs nothing and is worth nothing. *J.C. Ryle*

God behind the scenes (v. 21b-25)

“On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were puzzled, wondering what would come of this.” (v.24)

Ready to face trouble (v.26)

Courage to obey (v.27-32)

Choosing the Way (v.34-39)

Suffering for the Name (v.40-42)

“The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.”(v.41)

See also: Matt 5:10-12
Matt 16:24-26

Where might God be asking you to stand up for Jesus this week? Is there a particular person or place where He wants you to be bolder in speaking? Is there an area of your life where you need to honour Jesus more fully?



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Growth group questions

You will find it helpful to have heard the talk so why not listen at:
<http://leightonbaptists.org.uk/media-links/current-teaching/>

Some of these questions are personal and others are more general. Feel free to pick and choose which questions your group will find most helpful.

1. **Read Acts 5:17-18.** Would you share your faith if it could get you sent to prison?
2. Have you ever had anyone hate you because of your belief in Jesus?
3. **Read verses 19-20.** Have you ever shied away from sharing your faith or given less than the 'full' message of the gospel?
4. What are the hardest parts of your faith to share and why?
5. **Read verses 21-25.** Do you think your life as a Christian is ever puzzling to people who know you? How might that be a good thing?
6. **Read verses 26 and 29.** How is the attitude of the captain and his officers different to that of the apostles?
7. Does obeying God mean we have less to fear in life?
8. How might **verses 32 & 39** encourage us to obey God?
9. **Read verse 41.** The Bible is clear that following Jesus is costly. But we can rejoice in those things as God uses them to make us more like his son, Jesus. In what tough situations might God still want you to find joy?

PRAY: Thank God for His work in your lives. Pray that He would help each of you to obey Him and find joy in honouring Jesus even when it hurts.