

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **January 5, 2020** sermon, “No One Inside.” Please read the sermon passage (Acts 5:12-26) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

WHEN WE FOLLOW GOD’S WILL IN THE MIDST OF OPPOSITION, NOTE . . .

1. The varying responses we can expect (12-16)
 - a. Many did not receive Jesus Christ and “dared not” join them. They were afraid.
 - b. Yet many responded to the signs and wonder with true faith in Jesus Christ.
 - c. Even while the evil one aims to disrupt and intimidate, his followers are
 - i. Afraid of what will happen to them if they identify with true believers.
 - ii. Often respectful and interested in what God is doing through his people.
2. The ultimate authority that we must obey (17-21a)
 - a. God’s authority is ultimate and we must be careful to submit to him.
 - b. Governments and local authorities are “lowercase,” secondary and limited.
 - c. Where God’s authority and local authority conflict, we must obey God rather than men.
3. The intensifying resistance we should anticipate (21b-26)
 - a. While local authorities threaten us with imprisonment and persecution . . .
 - i. God has the power and authority to use the imprisonment for good.
 - ii. God has the power to free those whom he wills.
 - b. The fact that they found “no one inside” in the jail points us back the empty tomb.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Some people really respect what God is doing among believers, but they are afraid of joining us (12-13). Where do you see interest and respect for what God is doing among his people? Why should we not get overly-focused on this response?
2. Based on #1, above: Those who oppose God are afraid. To come to Christ, each person must be willing to leave behind everything they have been taught (and believe), everything their friends think, and be willing to fully identify with Jesus Christ. They must completely submit to his “Uppercase” authority. Discuss the radical changes that occur when someone comes to Christ.
3. Based on #2, above: Christ is the ultimate authority whether someone has faith in him or not. How are you growing in recognizing the difference between “Uppercase” authority and “lowercase” authority? Where do the expectations of God and mankind differ? In what way are you afraid? How can you grow in courageous obedience?
4. Based on #3, above: When we obey God rather than mankind, there will be consequences. We may be persecuted or imprisoned. God will be glorified in persecution/martyrdom and he will be glorified in delivering his people from persecution. He is free to produce either. Discuss. Discuss how God was glorified in the death of his Son and also in his resurrection.