

FALL QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015

THEME: ACTS – EXPOSING GOD’S CHURCH COMMUNITY IN ACTION!

UNIT ONE – “The Gains of their Actions”

UNIT TWO – “The Pains of their Actions”

UNIT THREE – “The Fame of their Actions”

“THE HIGH COST OF REPRESENTING THE LIVING CHRIST”

We Ought to Obey God Rather than Men

Growing by Multiplication

The Early Church Multiplied:

1. In Acts 1 only 120 disciples.
2. At the beginning 3,000 added, Acts 2:41
3. In Acts 4:4 about 5,000 men added (not counting women)
4. In Acts 5:14, multitudes of both men and women were added.
5. By Acts 6:7, even a great number of priests were added.
6. By Acts 7, 20,000 of the 55,000 residents of Jerusalem were Christians.

mastering multiplication

Sunday School Lesson No. III

September 20, 2015

Rev. Frank A Davis, III - Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Acts 5:11-42

Required Reading: Acts 5:11-42

Motto Text: Matthew 5:11-12, “Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Acts 5:29, “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; UMI Precepts for Living; Word-Search 10 Electronic Library; The Book of Acts by E. C. Gillentine; The Book of Acts in 24 Lessons by E. L. Bynum; Acts, the Church in Action by David Jeremiah

Lesson Introduction:

Quoting Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator, “On the night before His death, Jesus told His disciples, *‘If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you.’* (Jn. 15:20). Paul likewise declared that, *‘all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.’* (II Tim. 3:12). Christ even promised a special blessing on the persecuted (Matt. 5:10-12), declaring that their reward would be great in heaven. Even in countries with a Christian heritage, such as the United States, Canada, and many European nations, persecution exists. This often includes ridicule, ostracism, and efforts to stop evangelistic efforts.

As it was in the apostolic age, so persecution in other parts of today’s world includes imprisonments, beatings, and even death. To be a Christian in such places requires a commitment to suffer for Christ. If nothing else, this means that those wearing the name ‘Christian’ do so in a manner quite different from those in the so-called free world. How the early church reacted to persecution can be instructive, for opposition to the Christian faith will certainly intensify as we near the end of the age. II Tim. 3:13, *‘But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.’*”

Beloved, as I approach this week’s lesson, my mind reflects on my college days. When being initiated into my fraternity, we were required to go through an eight-week period of hazing. It included things that one of a sober mind should have rejected. But, I served the entire initiation to be a part of a group that I fancied in my flesh! Facing activities both mentally, physically and oh yes, financially, that were quite challenging to be called a “Frat Brother!”

As I reflect on my fleshly carnalities, how much more should I, like the early Church, be willing to sacrifice all for the Holy calling of representing my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! James 1:2-4 says, *“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect (complete) and entire, wanting nothing.”*

“THE HIGH COST OF REPRESENTING THE RISEN CHRIST”

Anticipated Power Points:

- **The Results of God's Action Against Sin. Acts 5:11**
- **The Raising of Great Miraculous Signs. Acts 5:12-16 (NLT)**
- **The Reaction of the Fury of Satan. Acts 5:17-18**
- **The Reinforcement of the Fearless Saints. Acts 5:19-32**
- **The Response of the Sanhedrin. Acts 5:33-40**

LESSON OUTLINE

I. The Results of God's Action Against Sin. Acts 5:11

According to E. C. Gillentine: "Fear came upon all the Church...The judgment of God sent upon Ananias and Sapphira accomplished the purpose for which God sent it; a deeply religious fear came upon every one and hypocrisy and deception were banished from the church."

II. The Raising of Great Miraculous Signs. Acts 5:12-16 (NLT)

This was the answer to the Church's prayers in Acts 4:29-30. "*And now Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.*" (Beloved, please read the list in verses 12-16 that Peter and the Apostles performed). Quoting Gillentine, "Some 'modern, so-called Divine Healers' have tried to practice what was done by Peter, but they are unable to do what Peter did. God was with Peter, but He is not with the modern healers of our time."

III. The Reaction of the Fury of Satan. Acts 5:17-18

- A. The indignation of the religious antagonist. vs. 17**
- B. The imprisonment of the righteous Apostles. vs. 18**

IV. The Reinforcement of the Fearless Saints. Acts 5:19-32

(The hand of the Lord moves to accomplish His objective in spite of adversity!)

A. Intervention of God's angel. vs. 19-20

(An open door and command for them to open their mouths for the Lord.)

B. Insistent affirmation of the Almighty. vs. 21-32

1. The angel releases and relates to the Apostles what to do. vs. 21a
2. The whole Sanhedrin council is gathered to judge the Apostles. vs. 21b
3. The astonished soldiers are speechless to find an empty locked cell. vs. 22-24
4. The surprised announcement to the council that the Apostles are back in the Temple preaching Jesus Christ again! vs. 25-26
5. The strong voice of the law speaks with a threatening tone. vs. 27-28
6. The fearless response of the Apostles to the council. vs. 29-32

V. The Response of the Sanhedrin. Acts 5:33-40

A. The woes of the wicked group. vs. 33

B. The words of the wise Gamaliel. vs. 34-39

"Gamaliel was a celebrated teacher and Jewish rabbi, a member of the Sanhedrin Court. He was Paul's instructor. On this occasion he saved the lives of the Apostles."

C. The whipping and warning given. vs. 40

How sad when prejudice gives way to violence!

VI. The Rejoicing of the Saints. Acts 5:41-42

The mouth of a true saint cannot be shut by threats or even chastisement. These saints rejoiced that they were found worthy to suffer a little for the Saviour Jesus, who suffered beyond measure. Remember Isaiah's words in 53:5: "*But he (Jesus) was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*"

Closing:

"The preacher may be bound and imprisoned, but the Word of God cannot be bound." II Timothy 2:9

Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA & Little Bethel Baptist Church, Amite, LA

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 19768, New Orleans, LA 70179-0768

Phone: (504) 486-7876

Email: bible32@bellsouth.net

Website: www.thestudyhour.com

Radio Broadcast: WABL AM (Amite City) and wablradio.com, Saturday, 3:00 p.m.

TV Telecast: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.



Looking Ahead:

September 27, 2015

Acts 7:1-53

The Sunday School Lesson is taught each Wednesday at noon at Bibleway. All are welcome!