

“Rejoicing In Persecution & Suffering!”

Acts 5:27-42

And when They had brought **Them (Apostles)**, They set **Them (Apostles)** before the Council (Sanhedrin). And the High Priest (Caiaphas) asked **Them (Apostles)**, saying, **“Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this Name? And look, You Have Filled Jerusalem with Your Doctrine, and Intend to Bring this Man's Blood On Us!”** But **Peter** and the **Other Apostles** answered and said (In Unison): **“We ought to Obey God rather than men! The God of Our Fathers Raised Up Jesus Whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him, God Has Exalted to His Right Hand to Be Prince and Savior, to Give Repentance to Israel and Forgiveness of Sins. And We Are His Witnesses to These Things, and so also is the Holy Spirit Whom God Has Given to Those Who Obey Him.”** When They (Religious Council) heard this, they were furious and plotted to kill them. Then **One in the Council** (Sanhedrin) stood up, a **Pharisee Named Gamaliel**, a **Teacher of the Law** held in **Respect by All the People**, and Commanded them to put the Apostles Outside for a little while. And he said to them: **“Men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what you intend to do regarding these **Men**. For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody. A number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was slain, and all who obeyed him were scattered and came to nothing. After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away many people after him. He also perished, and all who obeyed him were dispersed. And now I say to you, keep away from these **Men** and let them alone; **For If This Plan or This Work Is Of Men, It Will Come To Nothing; But If It Is Of God, You Cannot Overthrow It, Lest You Even Be Found To Fight Against God!**”** And They (Religious Council) agreed with Him (Pharisee Named Gamaliel), and when They (Religious Council) had called for the **Apostles** and **Beaten Them**, They (Religious Authorities) commanded that they should not speak in the Name of Jesus, and let them go. So, **They (Apostles)** departed from the presence of the Council (Sanhedrin), **Rejoicing That They Were Counted Worthy To Suffer Shame For His Name**. And **Daily in the Temple, and In Every House, They Never Ceased Teaching and Preaching Jesus as the Christ (Messiah – God’s Anointed & Chosen One)**. **Acts 5:27-42 (NKJV)**

Q

“How Does A True Follower of the Lord Jesus Christ Respond To Questioning, Persecution, Threats & Suffering?”

A

1st - Respond To Their Accusations & Threats With REASON & TRUTH!

But **Peter** and the **Other Apostles** answered and said (In Unison):

“We ought to Obey God rather than men!”

Acts 5:29

A

2nd - Respond With CONVICTION & PROPHECY!

To Convict Their Hearts & Minds - In Order To Offer Repentance & Salvation!

“The God of Our Fathers Raised Up Jesus Whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.

Him, God Has Exalted to His Right Hand to Be Prince and Savior,

to Give Repentance to Israel and Forgiveness of Sins.”

Acts 5:30-31

A

3rd - Respond That **YOUR IDENTITY IS FOUND IN CHRIST** – As His Follower & Witness!

Tell Them The Power Of God Within You
Comes From God's Spirit Who Speaks Through You,
Who Was Given As A Gift To You – Because You Obey God, Rather Than Man!

*“And We Are His Witnesses to These Things,
and so also is the Holy Spirit Whom God Has Given to Those Who Obey Him.”*

Acts 5:32

A

4th – Respond With **PATIENCE & ENDURANCE** – Even In Prison With Fate Unknown!
“And They (Religious Council) agreed with Him (Pharisee Named Gamaliel), and when They
(Religious Council) had called for the *Apostles* (From Their Holding Cells in Prison)” ...

Acts 5:40a

A

5th – Respond With **COURAGE & STAMINA** – Even When Being Abused & Beaten!

*“And when They (Religious Council) had called for
The *Apostles* (From Their Holding Cells in Prison) and Beat Them.”*

Acts 5:40ab

A

6th – Respond With **REJOICING & THANKSGIVING**

After Being Persecuted & Suffering For The Name of Jesus Christ!

“They (Religious Authorities) commanded that they should not speak in the Name
of Jesus, and let them go. So, They (*Apostles*) departed from the presence of the Council
(Sanhedrin), Rejoicing That They Were Counted Worthy To Suffer Shame For His Name.”

Acts 5:40c - 41

A

7th – Respond With Continual Boldness
In **TEACHING & PREACHING** – The GOOD NEWS!

*“And Daily in the Temple, and In Every House,
They Never Ceased Teaching and Preaching Jesus as the Christ
(*Messiah – God's Anointed & Chosen One*).”*

Acts 5:42

Q

“Will This Consistent #7 Point Response Of Faith Have Any Effect?”

A - Yes!

**It Will Cause Your Enemies & Those Who Oppose Your Faith & Beliefs To At Least Pause
& Question The Reason, Logic, Historical, Theological, & Truth Of Your Witness
For The Validity Of The Existence Of The Lord Jesus Christ As God!**

*“Men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what you intend to do regarding these *Men*.
For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody. A number of men, about four
hundred, joined him. He was slain, and all who obeyed him were scattered and came
to nothing. After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away
many people after him. He also perished, and all who obeyed him were dispersed. And now
I say to you, keep away from these *Men* and let them alone; For If This Plan or This Work
Is Of Men, It Will Come To Nothing; But If It Is Of God, You Cannot Overthrow It, Lest You
Even Be Found To Fight Against God!”*

Acts 5:35-39

Sanhedrin Pharisee Gamaliel

(Theological Teacher & Spiritual Mentor – Saul Of Tarsus, Later Paul The Apostle)

A - Yes!

**It Will Cause Skeptics (Agnostics), & Unbelievers (Atheists), & Lost & Broken People
Everywhere To Have The Opportunity To Hear, Understand, & Accept Or Reject
The GOOD NEWS of God in Christ & Inherit Or Forfeit Eternal Life!**

“Now in those days when the number of the disciples was continuing to multiplying”...

Acts 6:1

Q

RECAP QUESTION

***“How Does A True Follower of the Lord Jesus Christ
Respond To Questioning, Persecution, Threats & Suffering?”***

A

RECAP RESPONSES

- 1) REASON & TRUTH!**
- 2) CONVICTION & PROPHECY**
- 3) IDENTITY IN CHRIST**
- 4) PATIENCE & ENDURANCE**
- 5) COURAGE & STAMINA**
- 6) REJOICING & THANKSGIVING**
- 7) TEACHING & PREACHING**

Let Us Rise & Pray!

***“Dearest Holy Spirit Kindle Such A Fire
In Our Hearts, Minds, & Souls By Your Presence & Power,
That We Respond In Loving Obedience To You
As The True Followers of Jesus Christ Our Eternal Lord & King,
To The Glory Of God Our Heavenly Father!”***