

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **November 3, 2019** sermon, "Civil Disobedience." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 4:13-22) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

WHEN GOD'S WORK IS OPPOSED BY CIVIL AUTHORITIES, NOTE . . .

1. The internal discussions pertaining to God's people (13-17)
 - a. The Apostles' boldness caused the authorities to be astonished.
 - b. It was evident that "they had been with Jesus."
 - c. Though the work is great the authorities schemed to intimidate those who speak of it.
2. The governmental restrictions placed upon God's people (18-20)
 - a. They ordered Peter and John to stop speaking "in the name of Jesus."
 - b. Peter and John respond: "You judge. Should we listen to God? Or you?"
 - i. This is a crucial question for us today, even as our culture resists Jesus.
 - ii. When the culture tries to restrict, the result is often exponential growth.
3. The societal awareness produced by God's people (21-22)
 - a. The culture sees the healed man and is forced to consider the resurrection of Jesus.
 - b. When persecute, the Apostles obeyed God, rather than man.
 - c. "Don't be cautious because you want to survive. Be bold because Jesus defeated death."

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Have you ever been intimidated (relationally, emotionally, physically or legally) to stop speaking "in the name of Jesus"? What happened? How did you handle it?
2. Based on #1, above: People who do not know God will scheme and oppose the message of Jesus Christ. We should not be upset or surprised by this reaction. Instead, we should persist in proclaiming Jesus Christ. In what way do you spend too much time decrying and complaining about the culture's rejection of the good news about Jesus? In what way do you persist in proclaiming Jesus, and him risen from the dead?
3. Based on #2, above: Do you speak freely about the name of Jesus and power of God in public settings? Examples might include PTA, School Board, City Council, Assemblies, Neighborhood Watch meetings, court rooms, classrooms hallways and porches. How can you speak boldly and clearly, while maintaining love and credibility? What if all of us did this?
4. Based on #3, above: The general society saw the life- and health-bringing effect that Peter had on the man born lame. While we can't miraculously heal people, we can contribute to the physical well-being of the needy around us. How are you contributing to the physical well-being of the people around you? How can you improve in this? Why is this such a great place to start?
5. Based on #3, above: Consider the quote, "Don't be cautious because you want to survive. Be bold because Jesus defeated death." Give yourself a grade in "boldness" about speaking in the name of Jesus. The only way our "grade" will improve is if we spend time with Jesus. Discuss.