

Responding to Resistance
Acts 5:12-42

Getting Started

- ❖ Have you ever experienced opposition or aggression due to your faith? If so what was it like?

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. The Gospel Authenticated (v.12-16)
2. The Gospel Opposed (v.17-28)
3. The Gospel Preeminent (v.29-42)

Takeaway Truth: Active resistance to our faith provides a unique opportunity to experience the life-changing power of the Gospel.

Digging Deeper

- ❖ Revisit the sermon text and the sermon and answer the following:
 - What does this passage teach us about “signs and wonders”?
 - Often the words “signs, wonders and miracles” are associated with one another (cf., 2 Cor. 12:12). Considering this and Jerry’s explanation of what a miracle is, how does this affect your understanding of modern claims of miracles within the world-wide church today? (Reminder: A miracle is a supernatural act that creates amazement, astonishment, and wonder in the hearts and minds of those who see it. The act shows that God has invaded the human world with supernatural power and there is no other rational human explanation for the phenomenon.)
 - Clearly, we experience the supernatural and miraculous power of God. The spiritually dead heart being regenerated in salvation is miraculous and requires God’s supernatural power. Elders pray over the sick and, at times, the very sick person is healed. While these two examples demonstrate God’s power is still at work in our world, are they the same as the “miracles, signs and wonders” like what we see in Acts 5? How are they similar and how are they different? Why is it important that we make this distinction?
 - In what way can an emphasis on seeing “miracles, signs and wonders” today (as defined above) actually be a lack of faith or doubt looking for further proof?
 - What do you think was going on with “Peter’s Shadow”? (cf., Luke 1:35 & 9:34)
 - What were the various responses to the ministry of the apostles?
 - What reasons do you find for the actions that the high priests took?
 - How did this opposition affect the Disciples? Why do you think this was the case?

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Apply It!

- ❖ What do you learn from this passage about obeying human authority and obeying divine authority?
- ❖ In what ways is the Gospel Preeminent in this passage? What are some practical ways the Gospel can be preeminent in our lives and in our church?
- ❖ Think of someone in your life who is resistant to the gospel and, perhaps, engages with you in their resistance. How have you responded in the past and do you need to respond differently the next time the topic of your faith comes up?

Think About It!

We are not a new philosophy but a divine revelation. That's why you can't just exterminate us; the more you kill the more we are. The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church... those who see us die, wonder why we do, for we die like the men you revere, not like slaves or criminals. And when they find out, they join us. (Tertullian)

Note from Pastor Jerry: For this year's CG questions, group resources and Bible studies from John Stott (Acts Seeing the Spirit at Work), John MacArthur (MacArthur Bible Studies: Acts), Jack Hayford (Kingdom Power) and Max Lucado (Life Lessons from the Book of Acts) are used in addition to original material.

WORSHIP RESOURCE

December 12, 2021 | Third Sunday of Advent

WORSHIP SONGS

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

Latin Hymn | Music by John Francis Wade, 1751

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold him, born the King of angels!

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation. Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above. Glory to God all, glory in the highest!

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning. Jesus, to thee be all glory given. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

HOPE HAS A NAME

*Words and Music by Kristian Stanfill, Sean Curan,
and Jacob Sooter, 2020*

Breaking through the silence with glory in the highest,
the hope of all creation resting in his mother's arms.
A song on the horizon ringing through the heavens.
The long awaited Savior come to set the captives free,
come to set the captives free. Come set us free.

*Hope has a name: Emmanuel, the Light of the Word
Who broke through the darkness. All hail the King,
Emmanuel, the Light of the World, the Glory of Heaven.*

We didn't see it coming, the story of redemption.
What started in a manger ended in an empty grave.

Come if you're broken, come if you're searching.
If you need healing, He's where you find it.
Lay down your burdens and breathe in forgiveness.

JESUS YOU ALONE

*Words and Music by Jesse Reeves, John Larson,
and Nicole McLean, 2018*

Who is the great King of glory, seated on high in the heavens?
Oh, Jesus, You alone. You are the Lord God Almighty,
strong in compassion and mercy. Oh, Jesus You alone.

I've searched the world for a love that could fill my heart.
Nothing compares to the wonder of who You are.

*Holy, all the earth singing, holy.
All the angels cry, holy. Jesus, You alone. Jesus, You alone.*

You set the stars in the heavens. You set the world into motion.
Oh, Jesus, You alone. You breathed Your life in creation.
You walked among Your creation. Oh, Jesus, You alone.

*Holy, all the earth singing, holy. All the angels cry, holy. Jesus, You
alone. Jesus, You alone. Worthy, all creation sing, worthy.
All the heavens exalt Thee. Jesus, You alone. Jesus, You alone.*

You shed Your blood for salvation. You broke the curse for our
freedom. Oh, Jesus, You alone. You rose from death with the
morning. You'll come again in Your glory. Oh, Jesus, You alone.

THERE IS POWER

Words and Music by Lincoln Brewster and Mia Fieldes, 2014

Where two or more are gathered in His name, He is there.
For all who come, who run to Him in faith, He is there.

*There is power in the name of Jesus;
There is power, power in His name. (2x)*

No fear, no lie can stand against us now; He is here.
The Word has come to silence ev'ry doubt; He is here.

One name, one name can save; One name breaks every chain;
One name, always. One name, Jesus; One name, one name remains;
One name we will proclaim; One name, always, one name.

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 110; Amos 9:11-15; 2 Thess. 2:1-17; John 5:30-47
MONDAY | Ps. 67; Zechariah 1:7-17; Rev. 3:7-13; Matthew 24:15-31
TUESDAY | Ps. 85; Zechariah 2:1-13; Rev. 3:14-22; Matt. 24:32-44
WEDNESDAY | Ps. 50; Zechariah 3:1-10; Rev. 4:1-8; Matt. 24:45-51
THURSDAY | Ps. 62; Zechariah 4:1-14; Rev. 4:9-5:5; Matthew 25:1-13
FRIDAY | Ps. 16; Zechariah 7:8-8:8; Rev. 5:6-14; Matthew 25:14-30
SATURDAY | Ps. 149; Zechariah 8:9-17; Rev. 6:1-17; Matt. 25:31-46

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Loving God,
during this Advent season,
help us to sing aloud, and
rejoice in you with full and gracious hearts.
We know that you have taken away
the judgments against us,
and that you are in our midst.
When fears overcome us, may we remember
that you delight in us with gladness;
that you quiet us with your love;
that you rejoice over us with singing.
In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



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