

God Will Not Be Stopped!

Text: Acts 5:17-42

April 1, 2023

Big Idea: God cannot be stopped, so witness with confident obedience!

Context is key!

Question #1 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

Question #2 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What does the text say about God and about me?

- a) Is God saying or showing something about Himself? If so, what?
- b) Do the words in the text predict, prophesy or picture something about Jesus? If so, what?
- c) Is God saying or showing something about us? If so, what?
- d) Does the text point to my need for Jesus? How?

Question #3 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What are the principles, commands or promises given?

- a) What is the overall theme of the text?
- b) Does the passage include any promise from God? If so, what?

Question #4 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is the application?

- a) What is one specific way I can live by these truths, or trust in these promises today?
- b) What is the next step that I need to take to see this happen?

God can't be stopped! Witness with confidence in...

Point 1: His POWER: He'll GIVE It! (vv. 17-21a)

Question: No matter the odds, God gives what is needed. Will you trust in His power?

Question #5

- a) **Rd vv. 17-21a:** Why was the Sanhedrin filled with jealousy?
- b) How did the Lord display His power in setting the apostles free?
- c) What was the reason that God freed the apostles? Was it so they could do their own thing?
- d) When do you find it the hardest to trust in God's power to equip you for witnessing?
- e) Share scriptures as a group that declare how God promises to empower His people to witness.

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Point 2: His AUTHORITY: He's OVER It! (vv. 21b-32)

Question: God is the final authority. Will you trust and obey Him or man?

Question #6

- a) **Rd. vv.21b-32:** Who do these verses reveal has ultimate authority?
- b) In light of this, how did the apostles respond to the Sanhedrin when they were charged to not preach the gospel?

- c) Knowing Jesus has all authority, how did Peter use this opportunity in front of the Sanhedrin?
- d) Jesus has all authority over every authority and situation! How do these verses describe Him?
- e) How should knowing Jesus has all authority over every situation give us confidence to witness?

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Point 3: His PLAN: He'll DO It! (vv. 33-39)

Question: When God is in it, you can't stop it. Will you trust Him and witness?

Question #7

- a) **Rd vv. 33-39:** How does Gamaliel counsel the Sanhedrin?
- b) What truth does this tell us about our abilities to serve God on our own strength, agenda, etc?
- c) In light of this truth, how should this lead us to respond moment by moment as we serve the Lord?
- d) How does knowing that the enemy's best efforts cannot stop the Lord fuel our witness?

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Point 4: Our SUFFERING: He's WORKING! (vv. 40-42)

Question: A faithful witness will suffer for Christ. Will you rejoice and count the cost?

Question #8

- a) **Rd vv. 40-42:** How did the apostles respond after they were charged and beaten for serving Jesus?
- b) What was the reason for their rejoicing?
- c) Why is our default to rejoice when we don't suffer for Christ as opposed to rejoicing when we do?
- d) Why should knowing God is at work in us when we suffer for His Name, lead us to rejoicing?
- e) Where do you find it most difficult to count the cost to follow Christ in your witness/
- f) Spend time in prayer for one another over those situations.

Question #9

Happy 6th Anniversary Hope!

- a) **Rd. Matthew 16:18:** Will Jesus be stopped from building His Church?
- b) Spend time sharing God At Work Testimonies for how He is/has been working a Hope Ottawa over the last 6 years!

Prayer Application

Spend time as a group or in accountability praying out of Acts 5:17-42. Some prompts are below.

- a) ADORATION: Jesus, You cannot be stopped, because You are _____
- b) CONFESSION: Lord, I repent of my unbelief in Your _____
- c) THANKSGIVING: Jesus, thank you for building Your Church by _____
- d) SUPPLICATION: Lord, I ask you for...i) Increasing faith in _____ ii) Greater gospel work in your church through _____ iii) Faith to count the cost in following You, and to rejoice in my suffering for You.

Memory Verse:

"...if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!..."-Acts 5:38b

