

Acts – 7/26/26

Read

Read Acts 5:12-42 and consider what lessons the Holy Spirit intends us to learn.

Examine

- How do v.12-16 relate to Jesus' life and ministry in the Gospels? What does this teach about the nature of discipleship?
- The growth of the church (v.14) is again tied to the suffering of the disciples (v.17-18, 40). How does this passage help develop a theology of suffering in the Christian life? What does this teach about the role of suffering within mission?
- How do v.27-32 clarify the mission and identity of the disciples? According to this passage, what does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?
- What stands out about the common sense perspective of Gamaliel (v.34-39)? How do 2,000 years of church history and the ongoing advancement of the gospel shape how we interpret these verses?
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Apply

- V. 29 is a key principle for following Jesus. When is it appropriate to disobey authority as a Christian? When is it inappropriate? How should Christians relate to earthly authority?
- Christians should expect opposition to the gospel from the world. Where does our culture oppose the gospel? How can we be prepared to endure this opposition? How does this recognition inspire us to pray for believers around the globe in different contexts?
- Even the Pharisee Gamaliel recognized that no one can thwart God's plans (v.38-39). How does this instill confidence and boldness in you to live obediently to God?
- How can a Christian truly rejoice in the midst of suffering like these disciples (v.41)? How does suffering make us more like Jesus? How can suffering for the gospel actually spur on mission?
- Acts continually emphasizes the centrality of *teaching* and *preaching* the gospel (v.42). How can you grow in the practice and discipline of communicating the gospel in everyday life?

Pray

Take time to praise God for who He is, confess sins, and/or make requests based on this passage.