

Acts

THE BOOK OF ACTS

ACTS 5:17–42

October 11, 2026

SUNDAY REFRESHER

What do you do when obeying Jesus makes your life harder instead of easier? It's easy to assume that if we're doing what God wants, things should fall into place. But in Acts 5, the apostles are arrested, miraculously released, and sent right back to the place where they got into trouble. God opened the prison doors so they could get back on mission. Their discomfort didn't mean they had missed His direction.

When the authorities demanded their silence, the apostles chose to obey Jesus. Even after being beaten, they walked away rejoicing and continued sharing the good news. How does that happen? They knew the One they were following. Jesus had died for them, risen from the dead, and was reigning as King. Their courage came from confidence in Him. Obeying Jesus was costly, but they knew He was worth it.

the story continues

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

- *What did God say to you through this passage and teaching?*
- *Did God reveal anything new to you?*
- *How is this relevant in your journey to make disciples who Love God and Love people?*



QUESTIONS

- *Where have you assumed that following Jesus should make life easier? How does God sending the apostles back to the temple challenge the way you interpret discomfort or opposition in your own life?*
- *Whose approval carries the most weight in your decisions? When obeying Jesus could cost you comfort, reputation, or someone's acceptance, what helps you trust His authority over the voices pulling you toward compromise?*
- *What is one thing you know Jesus wants you to do that you've been avoiding because it feels uncomfortable? What would it look like to "Do the D.O.," the discomfort obedience, and take a specific step of faithfulness this week?*

CONCLUSION

Sometimes we know exactly what Jesus is asking of us. We just wish there were a less costly way to do it. Tell the truth. Have the conversation. Choose faithfulness. Risk someone's disapproval. The apostles felt the cost of obedience on their backs, yet they carried joy in their hearts. They knew Jesus had already given His life for them, and belonging to Him was worth whatever came next.

Where is Jesus asking you to trust Him this week? You don't have to pretend the discomfort isn't real, and you don't have anything to prove to Him. He has already shown you how much He loves you. Let that love move you toward the step you've been avoiding. Do the D.O. Obeying Jesus is sometimes hard, but always worth it.

Knowing that life transformation happens best through intentional, meaningful relationships, don't let this week's sermon remain as mere information. In the next few days, look for ways to teach, challenge, encourage and/or pray about what you're discovering!

