

## **Sermon Handout**

### **Boldly Proclaiming the Truth**

#### **Acts 5:17-32**

### **I. The Sequence of Events**

- a. The Sadducees are moved to envy v. 17 *cf.* v. 33; 13:44-48
- b. The second arrest of the Apostles (number unknown, Peter among them)
- c. Divine intervention in their imprisonment “angel of the Lord” *cf.* 12:7
- d. “Go, stand and speak . . . the ***words of this life***” says the angel
- e. The Apostles are seen teaching in the temple v. 21a
- f. The experience of the Sanhedrin
  - i. At first unaware of the “escape”
  - ii. Wondering “where this will lead”
  - iii. They summon the Apostles to appear before them
  - iv. They fear the crowds
- g. They pose a question and a two-part accusation
- h. Peter & the Apostles reply: “We & the Holy Ghost are witnesses”

### **II. The Boldness of the Apostles Explained**

- a. The Apostles are dramatically changed at Pentecost
  - i. Previously they failed to understand Jesus’ message & mission  
Mk 10:35-37 *cf.* Lk 22:24-30; Mt 24:3  
Acts 1:6 “Will you now restore the kingdom to Israel?”
  - ii. Pentecost radically alters their understanding & shapes their message  
Jesus’ reply to their question Acts 1:7-8  
“with the power of the HS, you will be witnesses concerning me”
- b. They finally understood the fulness of the gospel: two essential components
  - i. The historic ***facts*** concerning Jesus’ life and death (in the gospels)
  - ii. The proper ***interpretation*** of those facts (after Pentecost)
- c. Before Pentecost the Apostles possessed one but not the other Acts 1:4, 8
  - i. In the gospels, the lessons were ***external***
  - ii. After Pentecost the guidance became ***internal*** Jn 14:15-17
  - iii. Hence the necessity of the HS being sent Jn 16:7, 12-14; 17:17-19
- d. At Pentecost, The 12 grasped the ***meaning*** of the facts concerning Jesus  
Acts 2:23-24, 29-33, 36, 42; 3:14-18, 22-24; 4:8-13
- e. The result is seen frequently in the NT Acts 15:28; I Jn 5:6; I Pet 1:5-12  
I Thess 2:13; II Cor 4:13 (Ps 116:10); I Cor 2:9-16 (Isa 64:6)
- f. The power of the gospel is the ***interpretation*** of Jesus’ resurrection & ascension  
This resulted in the boldness of his witnesses in proclaiming the truth.