

HISTORICAL FAITH: THE RESURRECTION

Week 5: Explosion of Christianity

Key Scripture

Jesus disciples every day, in the temple and from house to house, did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.
Acts 5:42

Main Takeaway

Nothing has stopped the spread of the Christian faith in Jesus as risen Savior and Christ. And nothing ever will!

Start Talking: What is more frustrating, to be bullied or to see others bullied?

Start Praying:

Dear Jesus, you are risen and you reign as king over the world and our lives. Give us eyes and hearts of faith to follow you and trust in your rule alone, above and before any earthly power. Amen.

Start Studying:

- Read Acts 5:27-42
- What were the first followers preaching?
- What did the religious leaders want to do?
- What was Gamaliel's advice to the religious leaders
- Can you think of other historical or current examples of the general truth of his logic?
- Is what Gamaliel said universally true in the short term? Or long term?

Start Applying:

- It is tempting to be looking for ways that we are being "persecuted" or treated unfairly for being Christian. What does our text lead us to consider as much more important for us to be about?
- What could make it wrong or idolatrous for us to try to influence legal, governmental protections for the Christian faith?
- What does our text promise us will happen regardless of such "protections"?
- Spend time in prayer: There are people in the world who are actually facing physical danger or imprisonment for trusting in the risen Jesus. Take a moment as a group to pray for them. Pray for their comfort, thank God for their courage and example. And then also take a few minutes to pray and ask God to open your eyes to ways that you have clung to temporal or earthly "protections" and less on the protection of our Almighty Creator and Savior. Pray for eyes of faith to see and endure those things that God calls us to endure for the sake of Jesus.



Fill out Biblical Equipping



Finish in Prayer:

Our Father In Heaven, I am so grateful that we can freely share our faith without persecution. Be with us now as we go out and share your good news in our daily lives. Amen.

NOTES

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING

The Bible passage I will focus on is:

The part of this passage that caught my attention is:

I will apply this passage to my life by:

Before next meeting, the impact God had on me through this verse was: