

6/13/20

Recap of 6/6/21 message (Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 5:30-42):

1. The key verse in this section of Acts, 5:12-42 is the last verse, verse 42: “Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, **they never stopped** teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ. The people of God, and thus the gospel, could not be stopped.
 - Being thrown into prison didn’t stop them, vv. 12-26
 - Official oppression did not stop them, vv. 27-32
 - Threats of death did not stop them, vv. 33-39
 - The pain of flogging didn’t stop them, vv. 40-42
2. In recognition that the Holy Spirit was empowering them, filling them, and giving them boldness, they confronted the religious leaders with their need to repent, that is change their minds about Jesus. They had “missed the boat” about Jesus. They killed Him, but God raised Him from the dead and exalted Him to His own right hand. As Prince and Savior (vs. 31), Jesus was the source of life, the source of salvation. “He occupies the place of supreme power” (Erdman).
3. “...repentance, when used in an evangelistic context in scripture means ‘to change your mind about whatever is keeping you from trusting Christ and trust Him to save you’ (R. Larry Moyer).
4. If these religious leaders would trust Christ, they would receive forgiveness of sins. The Greek word translated “forgiveness” means to “cancel a debt,” “pardon a crime.” Biblically, sin is seen as a moral/spiritual debt.
5. The religious leaders reject their witness and ultimately have them flogged with a warning not to speak in the name of Jesus. Beaten and bloodied, they rejoiced that they could suffer for Jesus and then continued their teaching and proclaiming that Jesus is the Christ, leading us to ask two questions of ourselves:
 - What stops me from sharing my faith”
 - How far does my commitment to Christ go?