

BOOK OF ACTS // WEEK 9

Jason Brinker - 11/05/23

GROWING TOGETHER

Share about a time when you faced opposition to an idea or an action that seemed really great to you but to everyone else it was not well received. What was the result?

GROWING WITH GOD

Read [Acts 1:1-8](#), & [Acts 5:16-42](#) aloud and go over your sermon notes with one another. (Answer all or some of the questions)

Acts 5:18 tells us that all 12 of the Apostles were placed in a public jail. This was how the Sadducees and the Pharisees thought they could control the Apostles and display an unquestionable authority. However, being placed in jail did not deter the Apostles from spreading the Gospel.

- **How does seeing a person's willingness to be persecuted for their faith influence the perception others have towards the value of that faith?**

You'll notice that the early church made no attempt to militarize or politicize their cause. They lived and died as witnesses for Jesus without engaging in violence. They peacefully stood up against a growing hostile leadership culture that persecuted and executed them. In a radically different kind of rebellion against evil, "they died praying for their executioners. They died praying as they were thrown to the lions. They sang and witnessed in perilous circumstances."

- **In a community that is largely military and ready to go to combat for its country, how do we reconcile a military mindset with an apostolic mindset (relating to the Apostles) that uses love as its greatest weapon?**
- **While you may have never experienced such extreme punishments, share about a time you displayed your faith in a situation that was not comfortable.**

In 2004, Tim McGraw released a very popular song called, "[Live Like You Were Dying](#)". In the song, a man describes how after being diagnosed with a terminal illness he changes his life and begins to do the things that he never had time for or was too afraid to do. Many of us live our lives this way - not knowing how much tomorrow we have left but not capitalizing on the time we have today by sharing the gospel.

- **What would it take for you to share the gospel without worrying about the repercussions? How could your relentless obedience affect the life of someone else?**

Pastor Jason said, "Many of you today might really struggle with publicly living for Jesus. If it wasn't for church attendance no one would know that you are a follower of Christ. Many are fearful of talking to the ONE person; afraid to talk to your spouse or that friend or coworker about Jesus.

- **Who can you share the Gospel with this week?**
- **Have you thought about what method or moment you'll use to approach them about Jesus?**

Going back to Acts 1:8, we read Jesus telling His disciples, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Pastor Jason put it this way, "Every time we see the Spirit of God filling believers - He makes them Bold for Jesus."

- **Who is someone you know who is "Bold for Jesus" and what do you think gives them that confidence?**

Notice how throughout this experience as the Apostles preach, get thrown in jail multiple times, get flogged, and get released, they endured all of it together. The Apostles were walking out their Faith in Christ just as Jesus had exemplified and intended...in community with one another.

- **As a Life Group, what are ways you can encourage one another to boldly live for Jesus in public and be His witnesses?**
- **What do you need from your Life Group to help you boldly live for Jesus?**

GROWING IN OBEDIENCE & SCRIPTURE

This week's message covered many verses. In your group discussion, was there a verse or passage that resonated with you more than others? Share why.

Pastor Jason gave us a reference to read if we were further interested in learning about persecution for the sake of the church. He encouraged us to explore [Foxe's Book of Martyrs](#).

GROWING WITH CATALYST PEOPLE

Be sure to follow Catalyst Church on all the major social media platforms for the latest information and words of encouragement.



