

April 2, 2023
Acts 5:17-42
“Hold Your Ground”

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

We must obey God rather than man. No principle is more plainly stated than this one.

Pharisees were against Jesus, Sadducees against His church.

God raised Jesus from the dead. Through Jesus they could have forgiveness of sin. Simply turn to Jesus in repentance. They restate, we are witnesses of these things. Their message was being corroborated by the Holy Spirit who was giving them the ability to preach with boldness and to perform miracles.

Notice that they were responding, not reacting to this persecution, like Jesus they were being nonviolent and non-retaliating.

To flog was to beat with a triple strip of calf hide across chest and back, two strikes on the back then one on the chest until 39 lashes had been given. The law was 40 so to avoid going over the norm was 39. The victim would be in a kneeling position, bare chested. Many a man did not survive this whipping. They rejoiced for the opportunity to suffer for the cause of Christ.

Application:

Some get angry when faced with their rejection of Jesus (like the Sanhedrin) . Some are reserved, passive, indifferent (like Gamaliel) when it comes time to make a decision. Some realize their need to be forgiven for their sins, they repent of their sin and have remission from their sin (cancelation of one's sin debt). For those who are redeemed, the Great Commission, not the grand suggestion, is to go and tell others. *“Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” II Timothy 3:12*, NLT. Are you angry, indifferent, or is the Holy Spirit convicting you of your need for a Savior? Are you saved? If you are, are you prepared to suffer for the cause of Christ? *Philippians 1:28-29*, *“not being frightened in any way by your opponents. This is a sign of destruction for them, but of your salvation-and this is from God. For it has been granted to you on Christ's behalf not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, since you are engaged in the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I have.”* Responding, not reacting to this persecution, like Jesus they were being nonviolent and non-retaliating. Are you willing, are you prepared?