

BIG AND BOLD
Big Church – Part 3
October 15, 2017

Being a part of God's Big Church is a Big Deal.

1. The prayers of the apostles were answered.

Acts 4:29-30 (NIV) “Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable Your servants to speak Your Word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out Your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.”

Acts 5:12a (NIV) “The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people.”

Acts 5:16 (NIV) “Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.”

2. The movement met resistance.

Acts 5:17-18 (NIV) “Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸ They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.”

Acts 5:19-20 (NIV) “But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. ²⁰ ‘Go, stand in the temple courts,’ he said, ‘and tell the people all about this new life.’”

Acts 5:26 (NIV) “At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.”

Acts 5:27-28 (NIV) “The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. ²⁸ ‘We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,’ he said. ‘Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.’”

Acts 5:29-31 (NIV) “Peter and the other apostles replied: ‘We must obey God rather than human beings! ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging Him on a cross. ³¹ God exalted Him to His own right hand as Prince and Savior that He might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins.’”

Acts 5:32 (NIV) “We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

3. The Jewish leaders wanted to kill all the apostles.

Acts 5:33 (NIV) “When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.”

Acts 5:34 (NIV) “But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while.”

Acts 5:35 (NIV) “Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: ‘Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men.’”

Acts 5:36 (NIV) “Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing.”

Acts 5:37 (NIV) “After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered.”

Acts 5:38 (NIV) “Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail.”

Acts 5:39 (NIV) “But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”

Acts 5:40 (NIV) “His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.”

4. The apostles respond with rejoicing.

Acts 5:41 (NIV) “The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.”

Acts 5:42 (NIV) “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 Messiah.”

Boldness Baby Steps...

- **Decide to say something.**
- **Take advantage of opportunities.**
- **Strategize to create opportunities.**

John 3:16 (NIV) “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”