



SERMON NOTES

Sunday, February 21, 2021 | Pastor Scott Boerckel

“The Thinking of Persecutors”

Acts 5:27-42

1. The response to those who persecute the church
(Acts 5:27-32)

2. The agenda of those who oppose Christ and His church (Acts 5:33-42)

Table Talk

- 1) How would you feel if you were taken from the crowd of supporters to the high court of the Sanhedrin like the apostles were? (v. 27) In what ways should we prepare for such activity? In what ways should we not worry about it? (see Matthew 10:16-23; Luke 12:11-12)
- 2) How does the High Priest assume an agreement that the apostles never agreed to? (v. 28) What kinds of ways does our culture assume an agreement that believers today never agreed to?
- 3) How do Peter and the apostles express their intention to disobey these religious authorities? (v. 29) What is the place for civil disobedience in the church today? Why might sincere and godly Christians disagree on what constitutes an occasion for civil disobedience?
- 4) How is it that the apostles make it clear that their disobedience is in reference to the Gospel of Jesus Christ? (vv. 30-32) Why is it important to make that clear?
- 5) What is the response of authority to the disobedience of the apostles? (v. 33) Should we anticipate similar responses and accept the consequences of our disobedience?
- 6) Who is the cooler head among the Jewish leadership? What common sense does he lend to this tense situation? (vv. 34-39) What lessons might this teach us about those today who oppose Christ and the Gospel?
- 7) What is the result of this trial of the Sanhedrin? How do the apostles respond to their having been interrogated, threatened, and beaten? (vv. 40-42) How might we respond in similar circumstances?