

CHURCH *Empowered*

Problems

Message 6

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October 25, 2020

3. Pray for God's _____.
(Acts 5:33-42. C/R: Proverbs 19:21; 21:1; Isaiah 46:10-11; 1 Peter 4:12-16,19)

► Outline

The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer...
Acts 5:41 (NLT)

When problems arise...

1. Pursue God's _____.
(Acts 5:17-25. C/R: Matthew 5:10-12; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:28; Philippians 2:13)
2. Persist despite _____.
(Acts 5:26-32. C/R: Jeremiah 20:9; Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 9:16-17; 1 Peter 3:13-16)
4. Purpose to meet _____.
(Acts 6:1-7. C/R: Galatians 3:28; 6:2; Ephesians 4:11-12; James 1:27)

Answers: 1. purposes 2. opposition 3. intervention 4. needs

Resource Information: Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. C/R refers to a 'cross reference.' Today's outline and discussion guide are available through the Brookwood Church app.

► Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself or with friends to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. To connect with others, visit brookwoodchurch.org/adults.

Conversation Starter

What's something you wish you never saw?

Begin your study with prayer

Pause for a few minutes to quiet your heart and mind. Ask God to help you experience His love and hear His voice as you reflect on this week's lesson.

Bible Study and Group Discussion

Read [Acts 5:17-42](#).

1. What problems did the apostles face?
2. How is *this life* or *this new life* ([vs. 20](#)) an appropriate designation for faith in Jesus? What did the apostles do and say to display this new life?
3. When have you been or might you be called to speak truth in a situation where it might not be welcomed?
4. Is Gamaliel's analysis and counsel in [vs. 33-39](#) correct or not? Explain.
5. The apostles rejoiced that they were found worthy to suffer for Jesus' name. How is it an honor for them (and for us) to face such opposition?
6. Describe the apostle's response, motivation and source of strength throughout this whole episode.
7. In what ways do you need this kind of response, motivation or strength from the Holy Spirit in your life?

Read [Acts 6:1-7](#).

8. What was the dispute among the believers? How did they resolve it?
9. Where are the dividing lines of tension and jealousy among Christians in our day?
10. What principles do you see in this passage about the way Christians should deal with problems and ensure fairness?

Digging Deeper

Read back through Acts [5:17-6:7](#). Make a list of ways the apostles were faithful to God. Apply one of these in your life this week.

Spiritual Practice

[Spiritual Practices are steps we take to allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives. These aren't meant to be one-time actions, but practices that become a natural part of our lives.]

Name several problems churches in our country and around the world are facing. Add to that, ways you've seen people being treated unfairly, both inside and outside the church. Spend time praying for God to intervene and make Himself known in your life and throughout the world.

Memory Verse

The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus.

[Acts 5:41 \(NLT\)](#)

Daily Reading

Day 1: [Matthew 5:11-12](#)

Day 4: [Galatians 6:2-10](#)

Day 2: [1 Peter 3:13-16](#)

Day 5: [Ephesians 4:11-12](#)

Day 3: [Proverbs 21:1-13](#)

Prepare for Next Sunday

Sunday, November 1, we'll continue the series titled *Church Empowered*. To prepare, read Acts [6:8-8:3](#).