

Reflections on the Character of God

The reflection section has 5 scriptures that pertain to this week's aspect of God's character. Take one passage a day and reflect on it in the context you find. Note your insights.

The life response sections give you 2 more verses to ponder. These passages relate to your response to the name, title, or attribute of God. Write down practical responses.

Resurrection

Reflection: Luke 24:1-49; John 11:17-44; Acts 2:22-24;
Romans 4:18-25; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Life Response: John 6:35-40; 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

A Discipleship Journey - Acts of The Holy Spirit **We Must Obey God - April 10, 2022**

Primary text: Acts 5:27-42

God has set up legitimate institutions of authority for our good and for our protection.

At the same time, we are never to give unconditional allegiance to any authority under God because we are commanded to obey God first.

Clear commands of God supersede the direction of human authority.

The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead vs 30

The resurrection is central to the gospel message.

These two things go together repentance and forgiveness.

"And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." vs 32

When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. vs 33

The council couldn't argue from facts.

They were cut to the heart, they were so convicted that they got angry and they plotted to kill the apostles.

Why is the Sanhedrin so angry?

- 1) Peter accused them of being responsible for Jesus' death
- 2) He told them Jesus is sovereign
- 3) He says they don't have the Holy Spirit because they disobey God.

When you don't have a good argument all you can do is get angry and attack those who hold a view you don't like.

You have to silence a view you can't argue against!

"So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone," vs 38

To stay undecided, to stay on the fence, is to be decided.

"If we suffer with him, we will also reign with him." 2 Tim 2:12

If you're living your life on the fence you've already made a decision against Jesus.

Are we those who are willing to suffer shame and abuse for the name of Jesus Christ?

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Discussion Questions: Acts 5:16-29

- 1) What lead up to the situation in our text today
- 2) Why didn't the council refute the resurrection?
- 3) What claim of Jesus did Peter repeat in this text?
- 4) According to Peter who is filled with the Holy Spirit?
(vs 32)
- 5) What are Peter's accusations of the council?
- 6) What was Gamaliel's counsel?
- 7) How were the apostles beaten and why would they be joyful?
- 8) What does this mean for us when we suffer for obedience to Christ?
- 9) How should we apply this passage?

Prayer: Share one area in your life where you recognize you need to be more of a bold witness. Pray for each other for greater boldness to declare the gospel.