

Sermon Discussion Questions



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

“EMBROIDED BUT EMBOLDENED, Part Two”

Big Idea: Opposition to the Word of God cannot thwart the mission of God.

Discuss

In 1830, Charles Goodyear began experimenting with natural rubber, trying to come up with a process by which it could be “vulcanized,” i.e., hardened so that it would be pliable, moldable, and waterproof. It was not hard to imagine the uses to which such a product could be put. In his pursuit of perfecting and patenting vulcanization, Goodyear sacrificed literally everything he had—his time, his health, his family (at one point sending them off to board in another city), and his money (he was imprisoned for debt more than once). What inspires such single-minded devotion? In Goodyear’s case, there was the desire for both great financial gain and lasting fame. In both these goals, however, he was disappointed. He died penniless and spent much of the end of his life fighting patent battles with other inventors.

In the book of Acts, we see a devotion to Jesus and a determination to spread the Gospel that makes Goodyear’s resolve and commitment seem flimsy and pitiable. He landed in jail because he went into debt in hopes of making a fortune. The apostles were jailed because they spoke the name of Jesus, and when they were threatened and flogged, they went on their way rejoicing because “they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.” (v. 41)

- 1) What about the Gospel and the church
 - drew people in? (“... more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.” v. 14)
 - made some people keep their distance?
 - so repelled the high priest and all of his associates?
- 2) The disciples did not hesitate for seemingly even a second in their choice of obeying God rather than obeying man. (see vv. 20, 21, 29, 42)
 - In what ways might we be called today to obey God rather than man?
 - What do you think made the disciples so obedient (remember that it was not all that long before this that Peter, James, and John had completely failed to stay awake and keep watch while Jesus prayed on the night of his betrayal—even though their Master asked them twice to do so)? (See Mark 14:33-41)
 - What should fuel our obedience?
- 3) Luke gives us a detailed picture of a vibrant and growing church in this section of Acts, one that nonetheless faced increasing opposition.
 - What do you think should be the characteristics of a committed church body today? In what ways should it be like the church in Acts? (If time, see 1 John 2:15-17 and James 2:14-25)

DATE: October 20, 2019

SPEAKER: Chad/Brian

SERIES: Acts

PASSAGE: Acts 5:12-42

Pray

BLESSED LORD JESUS,

No human mind could conceive or invent the Gospel. Acting in eternal grace, you are both its messenger and its message,

—lived out on earth through infinite compassion,

—applying your life to insult, injury, and death that we might be redeemed, ransomed, and freed.

Help us to submit our hearts and lives to the Gospel’s commands, to have the Gospel controlling our affections and molding our understanding.

O unite us to yourself with inseparable bonds, that nothing may ever draw us back from you, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

—based on “The Gospel Way,” The Valley of Vision, p. 35

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Fellows Program Chattanooga

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Church Planting in India