

Acts 3-5

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I. Introduction.

A. Discerning the good from the best.

II. It is good for all of us to have a time set aside for prayer not to bind us but to remind us. (Mark 1:35, Psalm 55:17, Daniel 6:10, Psalm 119:164)

III. Peter had no money that he called his own although the work was well supported. (Acts 2:44)

A. Peter clearly repudiated worldly gain.

B. Here he repudiates worldly glory.

C. Gain and self-glory are two prime sins that the Devil uses with men in the ministry.

IV. The goal was to make disciples, not converts.

V. The tendency is to glorify the instrument instead of the one using it - Jesus deserves the credit.

VI. Jesus' death and resurrection was clearly prophesied. (Luke 24:44-47, Acts 10:43)

A. Our faith is built upon the testimony of the Apostles and Prophets. (Ephesians 2:20)

B. Man was made for God. Man without God is like a fish out of water.

C. Repent and be converted - God will change your life. (Acts 15:9)

VII. Healing was an opportunity to preach the gospel, not give more healing.

A. Christ exposed the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and the false teachings of the Sadducees.

B. If you performed a great deed by some magical entity you could be put to death in Biblical times, so Peter was in danger of doing things by Jesus power. (Deuteronomy 13, Exodus 22, Leviticus 19)

C. Peter followed after Jesus' pattern in His teaching. (Matthew 21:33)

VIII. Other religions tell us what we ought to be and what we need; Jesus Christ makes us what we ought to be and meets our needs. (Acts 4:12)

A. The people could say nothing against the unanswerable fact of a healed man.

B. If anyone ever gives you trouble about your ministry just have him give a testimony.

IX. The disciples had boldness - unashamed freedom of speech - sharing the gospel.

A. How one gets boldness.

1. Pray for it. (Acts 4:29)
2. Live in victory through confession. (Proverbs 28:1, 1 John 1:9)
3. Memorize Scripture. (Jeremiah 20:9)

B. The apostles witnessed with great power.

X. Two disciples lied about the offering with heavy consequences.

- A. God was keeping a special group and Ananias and Saphira tried to get into that group deceitfully.
- B. Do not boast about things you have not done.
- C. Do not promise things and not do it.
- E. Do not report things better than they are.

XI. The angel commanded to share the Word.

- A. Men were cut to the heart by the Spirit.
- B. The Sanhedrin's plans were being thwarted by simple men and they were sawed through mentally.
- C. The disciples ceased teaching Christ. (Acts 5:42)
- D. We must obey God. The disciple's commitment to this made them who they were.

Application questions

1. What role did Scripture memory play in ministry in the early church? What role should it play today?

2. What challenges have you had in sharing your faith? How was it that the Apostles were so bold in this in the Scriptures?

3. Memorize Acts 5:42 and write it below. How does this verse encourage us to share our faith?
