



#85

**Theme:** “Gamaliel, Thank You”

**Scripture:** (Acts 5:41-42 NIV) *“The Apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.”*

**A Thought:** The apostles were on a spiritual high. In previous weeks they ministered and healed thousands of lost souls. They showed great boldness in their preaching and now they were in terrible straits. Anger and hatred prevailed among the exasperated Pharisees and Sadducees. Even though the apostles were adhering to the Lord’s call the Jewish leaders wanted no part of it and challenged their authority and wanted them put to death. The teacher of law, the erudite Gamaliel put reason into action. He addressed the Jewish leaders with the following comments (Acts 5:35b NIV) *“Men of Israel consider care what you intend to do to these men.”* He defended his statement by reminding them of two historical revolts that were not victorious and the exploits met with quick demise.

Gamaliel continued (Acts 5:38-39 NIV) *“Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”* Blessed words from the learned potentate to the apostle’s ears. They knew of a higher calling and proclaimed to Jewish leaders, *“we must obey God rather than human beings”* (Acts 5:29 NIV). Our daily task is to do likewise. Fear of the world is not analogous to fear of the Lord. (Mark 16:15 NIV) *“And He said to them, go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”*

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

---

---

---

**Talk to yourself:**

- What is your stand on evangelizing?
- Does fear prevail in your reaching out to the unsaved? Family? Friends?
- Study the Word and be consistent with your personal walk with the Lord.

• **Scriptures to read:** A flash list on evangelism.

- Jesus' first and last words on evangelism, Matt. 4:18-19; Acts 1:8-9,
- Confidence in the Word, Isaiah 50:10-11; Acts 16:30-31, Matthew 9:37;
- Luke 19:10; John 3:17, 4:35; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; 1 Tim. 1:15;

**Quote:** Kevin Higgins, English Poet, *"Can we learn from Gamaliel and be humble enough to realize that even in our sincerest and deepest desires to follow Him and seek His truth, we still see through a glass darkly and have much to learn? Can we all affirm that we do not want to be found opposing God?"* Gamaliel Principle

**Bottom Line:**

Gamaliel's exhortation to members of the Sanhedrin was to cool it with their impetuous and bullheaded fervor. It was likely that he knew a couple of the apostles but his singular motive as I stated in the Thought section was not to save their skin but to avoid having the Romans involved in a mundane council affair. God's hand was in the thick of things. Listen to one of the oldest refrains in history by way of Moses (Exodus 15:6 NIV) *"Your right hand Lord, was majestic in power. Your right hand Lord, shattered the enemy."* Men, every day we should rejoice what the Lord has in store for us. Step out, be bold, speak to all the ears who are willing to hear the Good News...(Acts 11:21 NIV) *"The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord."* Our Lord expects no less than what our spiritual forefathers experienced in that packed council two thousand years ago. Praise and worship Him and extend your hand out to Him. He will grasp it tightly and with love. (Psalm 89:13 NIV) *"Your arm is endowed with power; your hand is strong, your right hand exalted."* Oh, a special thanks to the "man of law," yes, Gamaliel, his words, verbatim...(Acts 5:39 NIV) *"But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."* What a savvy man. A very prophetic and historical statement to be sure!

**NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.**

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

Please click: [www.Missionebenezer.org/thebottomline#!the-bottom-line/cmx0](http://www.Missionebenezer.org/thebottomline#!the-bottom-line/cmx0)

