



The early church serves as a model for the Church today. If we will make their priorities our priorities, if we will proclaim the message as they proclaimed it, if we will follow their example of ministry, together, we too can make a difference in the world which we live in!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read [Acts 5:17-42](#). Jot down 1 or 2 new thoughts that seem important. Why are they important?
2. Remembering [Acts 5:27-28](#), what 2 charges were brought against the Apostles by the High Priest?
 - a. Were the Jews upset by these two charges?
 - b. What happened in [Matthew 27:24-25](#) that contradicts this?
 - c. Why the change?
 - d. Has there ever been a time when something seemed like the right thing to do, but later you wanted to deny you did it? Perhaps even because it was really upsetting you? Is denying it the best way to handle it? Why or why not?
3. How did the Apostles respond to these charges in [verses 32-33](#).
4. As part of the reply, what did the Apostles say had happened to Jesus? (**Hint:** [verses 31-32](#))
5. Re-read [Acts 5:32](#). Who bore witness to the resurrection?
6. What are some of the special or miraculous events in your own life that you have either witnessed or experienced personally?
 - a. Have you shared with others those “testimonies” of God’s goodness, provision, grace, mercy or power? Why or why not?
 - b. If yes, when was the last time you shared this with others?
 - c. Can you share at least one of those times right now?

MOVING FORWARD

There are some disturbing trends in our government today that, if followed through with, could lead to some anti-Christian laws. God instructs Christians to obey civil law (see [Romans 13:1-5](#); [1st Peter 2:13-17](#)). However, when rulers command us to *sin against God's law*, we must obey God instead. Please note that this does not say we may disobey whenever we think a law is unfair or unreasonable or even when the rulers themselves commit sins. We may disobey only when they *command us to sin*. And only then must we disobey! Are you prepared to take a stand for God? Pray now for boldness.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

“²⁹ But Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than men.” [Acts 5:29](#)