

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for May 22, 2011

“The Advice Regarding The Apostles”
Acts 5:33-42

1. The angry men (5:33)

The Sadducees were not provoked by the apostles' acts of disobedience but by the apostles' words of Jesus.

2. The advisor (5:34)

Gamaliel was a leader of the Pharisees which were a minority among the ruling religious council of Israel.

Gamaliel was Paul's mentor. Paul may be a source for Luke's account (Acts 22:3).

Gamaliel was such a well-respected teacher that he remains revered among Jews today.

Gamaliel is considered by many Catholics to be a “saint.” Based upon the biblical text and historical accounts, there is no reason to consider Gamaliel a Christian.

Gamaliel's sympathies did not lie with the apostles but rather with the Pharisees who were opponents of the Sadducees.

3. The advice (5:35-39)

a. Examining Gamaliel's examples (5:35-37)

There is little historical data on Theudas, but Judas of Galilee led a well-known revolt against taxation around 6 AD.

Both men would be the equivalent of modern-day terrorists.

b. Examining Gamaliel's exhortation (5:38-39)

Gamaliel's reasoning was correct in the sense of eternity and in light of God's sovereignty.

Gamaliel's reasoning was flawed in the sense that he failed to prove his premise.

Gamaliel's reasoning was flawed in the sense that its logical conclusion would be fatalism.

Gamaliel's reasoning was flawed in the sense that it was not from a belief in revealed truth.

The irony of the endurance of Christianity should not be missed.

4. The aftermath (5:40-42)

a. The mistreatment of the apostles (5:40)

Flogging was done as punishment for a crime and was limited to no more than forty blows (Deuteronomy 25:1-3).

b. The mindset of the apostles (5:41)

Their suffering in Christ's name was predicted (Mark 13:9).

c. The ministry of the apostles (5:42)

Ministry was the apostles' daily task. Acts 5:42 forms a structure that shows their ministry consisted of two parts: preaching the gospel to the lost in the temple area and teaching the believers who gathered in homes.

May God give us the heart and mind to joyfully serve Christ among believers and unbelievers, even in the face of difficulty.