

# LETTING OUR LIGHT SHINE

Lesson #3 –Darkness of Silence

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 2:1-5

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## Introduction:

1. There are those who would try and stop the preaching and teaching of Christ; we must continue to shine.
2. The apostles continued to preach Jesus as the Christ in the midst of those trying to silence it.
3. What did the opposition do in an attempt to silence the apostles?
4. In this lesson we will examine some of the events that happened to the apostles...

## **I. THEY WERE ARRESTED**

### **A. THEY WERE FIRST PREACHING CHRIST**

1. Peter and John just healed a man lame from birth –Ac 3:1-10
2. They preached beginning with the miracle and quickly going to Jesus

### **B. THEY WERE ARRESTED –Ac 4:1-4**

1. They were arrested for preaching Jesus resurrected from the dead
2. Their numbers grew to about five thousand

### **C. THEY ADDRESSED THE SANHEDRIN –Ac 4:5-13**

1. It was not long before that Jesus stood before these men
2. Peter now addresses them through inspiration of the Holy Spirit –vs. 8-12
3. They marveled, for they perceived that they had been with Jesus –vs. 13

## **II. THEY WERE THREATENED**

### **A. THE THREAT**

1. They knew a notable miracle had been done; they could not deny it.
2. Their heart were hardened nonetheless –Ac 4:16-18

### **B. THE RESPONSE –Ac 4:19-20**

1. It is better to listen to God rather than man
2. They must speak all they have witnessed and heard

## **III. THEY WERE IMPRISONED**

### **A. GREAT POWER WAS DEMONSTRATED THROUGH THE APOSTLES –Ac 5:12-16**

1. Multitudes were coming from surrounding areas to be healed
2. They even desired just the shadow of Peter to fall on them

### **B. THEY WERE PUT IN PRISON**

1. The high priest and the Sadducees were filled with indignation against them
2. They put them into prison
3. An angel appeared to them and set them free with the command to preach the words of life.

### **C. THE TRIAL**

1. They did not want the blood of Jesus brought upon them –Ac 5:28; Compare Mt 27:24-25
2. We ought to obey God rather than man –Ac 5:29

#### **IV. THEY WERE BEATEN**

##### **A. GAMALIEL'S ADVICE**

1. Theudas –Not much is known of him other than his name and that his efforts came to nothing
2. Judas –Led a revolt in 6 AD stating it was treason to pay taxes to Caesar.
3. The apostle's work would come to nothing if it were of man. If it is of God, it is futile to fight it.

##### **B. SUFFERING FOR CHRIST**

1. The apostles were beaten –i.e. the 39 lashes (2Co 11:24, De 25:3)
2. They counted it joy to suffer for Jesus
  - a. This was what Christ told them would happen –Mt 10:17
  - b. Peter later wrote to glorify God in suffering -1Pe 4:16
  - c. If we suffer with Him, we will be glorified together –Ro 8:16-17

##### **C. THEY DID NOT CEASE TEACHING JESUS AS THE CHRIST**

1. The threats and beatings did not deter these men of God
2. They taught both publically and privately on a daily basis

#### **Conclusion:**

1. Only one has the power to dim our light; that is self.
2. No amount of threats, beatings, mockery, or anything else can silence us from preaching and teaching the truth of God's holy word.