

The Hard News of the Gospel

Acts 5:21b - 33

1. What did the apostles say that set everyone else off?

2. Why would that message make someone angry?

3. What do you do when it upsets you?

Discussion Questions:

1. We keep hearing gospel presentations in Acts that help us understand what we need to grasp/believe for ourselves and what we need to communicate to others.
 - a. Which aspects of the gospel message that you hear in verses 5:30-32 are easier for you to emphasize?
 - b. Which ones are harder?
 - c. Would you benefit from studying any of those aspects more than you already have?
2. A religiously-oriented person works hard: 1) to make up for their past failures, and 2) to live now without needing to rely on God's gifts of repentance and forgiveness.
 - a. Are there areas of your life where you're tempted to live by religious efforts more than by embracing God's gifts?
 - b. How can you tell when you've slid back into relying on religion more than you do on the gospel?
3. Since you live the Christian life the same way you begin it, by accepting God's gifts to you, which gifts do you think you need more of right now? More repentance? A sense of God's forgiveness? Greater empowering and filling of his Spirit?
 - a. Find a friend and ask them what they need from the Lord, then spend some time, asking God for more of what he loves to give to his children.