|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Title:*** | Truth and Consequences (Title given by Warren Weirsbe) |
| ***Text:*** | Acts 5:12-42 |
| ***Subject:*** | What reality did the church at Jerusalem become well acquainted with regarding the preaching of the truth? |
| ***Compliment:*** | The preaching of the truth has consequences. |
| ***CIT:*** | The church in Jerusalem found that there are inseparable bonds between truth and consequences, in that preaching the truth has consequences! |
| ***Purpose:*** | To encourage and prepare the believer, by and for the consequences of preaching the truth, to preach the truth. |
| ***Homiletic Idea:*** | You will find today that there are still consequences for preaching the truth of God’s Word both desirable and undesirable! |
| ***Intro:*** |  |

Definition of truth - The quality of being true; as: -- (a) Conformity to fact or reality; exact accordance with that which is, or has been; or shall be. [http://www.brainyquote.com](http://www.brainyquote.com/words/tr/truth233001.html#z2Rg2gec9DZVvo0r.99)

Definition of consequences - Something that logically or naturally follows from an action or condition. <http://www.thefreedictionary.com>

The apostles were preaching the truth about Jesus Christ according to the above definition. That which they proclaimed with regard to Jesus conformed to reality or fact, and was and is in exact accordance with that which is, or has been, or shall be!

CIT Stated: The church in Jerusalem found, however, that there are inseparable bonds between truth and consequences, in that preaching the truth has consequences!

Something logically and naturally followed from the action that involved the condition of the audience to which they preached. Many people believed, and many people opposed. People weren’t the only ones involved and listening though. God was honored and honored their efforts, and the apostles found the Word of the Lord yet again to be faithful and true!

1. ***It isn’t hard to see what the work of glorifying God centered upon in this local New Testament Body!***
	1. You might be tempted to say that the work centered on healing and miracles.
	2. It did not.
	3. It centered on the preaching of the truth regarding one Jesus of Nazareth!
		1. V14 – believers were the more added to the Lord.
			1. Romans 10:14 – “how shall believe in Him of whom they have not heard, and how shall they hear without a preacher?”
			2. They were preaching the gospel!
		2. V17, 27-28 the high priest had them arrested, again, for not complying with his demands to stop preaching and teaching in Jesus name! (4:18)

Note: In fact in verse 28 they were accused of having filled the world with their doctrine (teaching)!

* + 1. V19-21, 25 even after being arrested they were found in the temple once again preaching and teaching in Jesus name!
		2. V28-32 being reminded of the high priest’s command the apostles make their stance clear.
			1. V30-32 “we are His witnesses of these things”
				1. A witness tells what they have seen or experienced.
				2. The church considered itself to be just that for Christ, and rightly so seeing as that is the designation given by Jesus after his resurrection! (1:8)
				3. V30-31 is the truth regarding Jesus!
			2. They were preachers of the truth regarding Jesus of Nazareth!
		3. V40 they were once again commanded not to do the very thing they had been most consumed with, preaching Jesus, only this time they were beaten.
		4. V42we find them once again doing just that, preaching the truth about Jesus.
	1. So what about all the healing and miracles?
		1. V12 calls them signs and wonders.
		2. The word “sign” comes from the Greek ‘*semeion’* and means sign, mark or token.
		3. The definition is, ‘that by which a person or a thing is distinguished from others and is known.’
			1. Whose name did the apostles heal in?
			2. Jesus!
			3. The purpose of the healing and the miracles was to validate Jesus claims with regard to who He is!
			4. Healing in any other name would not have had the same effect!

Transition: So the early local New Testament church work of Glorifying God centered on preaching the truth about Jesus of Nazareth, but what they found quickly was…

1. ***Preaching the truth has consequences both desirable and undesirable!***
	1. Desirable consequences included:
		1. V12 (people magnified them) God was honored by the preaching because His name was lifted up and His Son’s and it was done honorably!
			1. People magnified them for simply doing what God told them to do.
			2. Hence God was magnified!
		2. V14 God honored their efforts by giving them fruit!
		3. V14 People believed and got saved and were added to the body!
		4. V17, 26-28, 40-41 They found Jesus’ Word to be true!
			1. As they sought genuinely to do the work of the Lord they were persecuted just as Jesus said! Matt. 5
			2. This further proved that God was faithful and reliable, as well as signified to them that they must have been doing things right!
	2. Undesirable consequences included:
		1. V13, 17 Not all believed, and some were angered.
		2. V17, 26 They were arrested again…and again.
		3. V40 They were beaten.
		4. V33 They were almost killed (eventually all but one was).
		5. V34-39 They were regarded as just another crazy religious group of fanatics.

Transition: Though preaching the truth had consequences, both desirable and undesirable, it didn’t have an alternative because they were doing it out of obedience to God!

1. ***Preaching the truth, consequences and all, had no other alternative because they were doing it in obedience to God!***
	1. V29 “We ought to obey God rather than men.”
		1. Obey – means to do what has been directed (my def.) or hearken which means to hear.
		2. This requires direction, and implies that God had directed them in this, which we know to be the case! V19-21
	2. V42 and so that is what they did!
	3. They ceased not!
		1. Cease means to stop or make an end.
		2. They didn’t.

***Application:*** (Homiletic Idea Stated) You will find today that there are still consequences for preaching the truth of God’s Word both desirable and undesirable, however you will also find that there is still no alternative because that it still what the work of glorifying God centers upon and that is still the way God wants it!

* ***Preaching the truth about Jesus of Nazareth or as the angel put it “all the words of this life” has consequences!***
	+ To claim that something is the truth is to claim that anything in contrast to that idea is false!
	+ So that a person can be sincere and kind and still offend because of the exclusive nature of claiming something to be objective truth!
	+ The truth about Jesus is that He is the Christ, the Lord, and the Saviour.
		- There is no other Lord, and there is no other Saviour, and there is no other way to heaven except through Him!
			* John 14:6
			* Acts 2:36-38
			* Acts 4:10-12
		- There are people who will find such a claim offensive because of the implication it has on any other beliefs they might have!
		- Our government finds such statements to be offensive or at the least politically incorrect!

Transition: While negative consequences are undesirable and never to be sought after *(some believers don’t think they can please God without being offensive….not true and not what Jesus had in mind!)* they can be a source of encouragement to the Christian trying to serve God genuinely out of a heart of love for God and man.

* + Christ told us to love our neighbor, but even then He also said that there would be persecution if we were salt and light as He intended.
		- So while some consequences are undesirable…
		- Some friends or family or acquaintances may alienate you.
		- There is an encouraging aspect in that it is evidence that you are doing as Christ said.

Transition: Another encouraging truth is that not all consequences are negative!

* ***Not all consequences are negative however.***
	+ God takes care of those who seek to obey Him!
	+ God is honored in the work to glorify Him through the preaching the gospel!
	+ And the preaching of the gospel is the power of God unto salvation! Romans 1:16
		- Think of your own testimony or others in the class who have recently accepted Christ!
		- “How shall they hear without a preacher?” Romans 10:14
		- Think of the lives that have been changed!
		- Think of how different life might be for you now without the hope you have in Christ!
* ***At the end of the day however, preaching the truth, though it has consequences, doesn’t have an alternative!***
	+ We are His witnesses!
		- We have seen the power of the gospel!
		- We have seen the power of His Word!
		- We therefore are called to tell others!
	+ His command to go and tell didn’t die with them!
	+ The only alternative is to disobey according to Peter!
	+ We don’t have to be brash or rude or in your face.
	+ We do have to tell.

***Conclusion:***

The church in Jerusalem found that there are inseparable bonds between truth and consequences, in that preaching the truth has consequences, but it has no alternative…

***Explanation of V13*** – (according to Walvoord and Zuck) “probably means that no hypocrite or unbeliever dared join them. The case of Ananias and Sapphira frightened them too much!”

The lost wouldn’t come within 10’ of the church, but those that believed and received Christ couldn’t stay away!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Dates and Locations Delivered*** |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |