

November 19/20, 2005

Study Questions
The Unstoppable Church
“If It Is of God...”
Acts 5:17-42
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. When is the enemy most likely to try to discourage you in your Christian walk? Why?
2. Why does God deliver us from bondage?
3. How do you know what is *of God* and what is not? Is someone else not *of God* simply because we don't agree on everything?
4. Have you ever found yourself opposing something that eventually you realized *was* of God?
What did you learn from that experience?

Bible Study

1. Do a quick review of what transpired in Acts 5:1-16.
2. Read Acts 5:17-26. Why were the apostles arrested?
What principle can we learn from this?
3. Our first instinct after being delivered from jail would be to run and hide to avoid being arrested again. What did the angel command the apostles to do (see verse 20)?
How does this align with Acts 1:8?
Why does God deliver us?
4. What chance did the religious leaders have of stopping the apostles from carrying out God's plan? What do we learn from this? (Compare Matthew 16:18b)
5. Read Acts 5:27-32. When is it right to obey God rather than men?
What would be an example of this in our culture today?
6. Read Acts 5:33-42. What was Gamaliel's counsel?
Was it wise counsel? Why or why not?

7. What is meant by “if it is of God...?”

How do we know what is and is not of God?

Are we sometimes opposing that which really is of God?

Does God only bless those who are doing everything right?

8. Why did the apostles consider it a joy to suffer for the name of Jesus?

What is necessary for us to have that same attitude?

Application

1. Is there anything in your life right now that is preventing you from taking your stand for Christ?

What can you expect if you take your stand and proclaim the Gospel?

2. Is it possible you are opposing something that is actually of God?

What do you need to do to make that right?

3. Do you count it a privilege to suffer shame for the name of Jesus or are you compromising to avoid uncomfortable situations?

Are you ready to “Go, stand and speak?” (See Acts 5:20.)