

September 11, 2022

# Take care

Acts 5:17-42

## Our world could use some real bravery.

There is a difference between what the world defines as bravery and real bravery. Much of society defines bravery as recklessness, forcefulness, violence, or humiliating someone else publicly. Real bravery is different. The only muscle that real bravery requires is the heart. Real bravery comes from people who choose to always do the 'loving' thing no matter the cost to themselves. And while the world may not applaud 'real bravery' it is far more rewarding.

THINK IT OVER

**How do you feel like you have gotten the definition of bravery wrong?**

17 The high priest, together with his allies, the Sadducees, was overcome with jealousy. 18 They seized the apostles and made a public show of putting them in prison. 19 An angel from the Lord opened the prison doors during the night and led them out. The angel told them, 20 "Go, take your place in the temple, and tell the people everything about this new life." 21 Early in the morning, they went into the temple as they had been told and began to teach.

1) Move from a "this is mine" mindset to a "this is for you" way of life.

THINK IT OVER

**Take your place. All of heaven is 'for' you.**

When the high priest and his colleagues gathered, they convened the Jerusalem Council, that is, the full assembly of Israel's elders. They sent word to the prison to have the apostles brought before them. 22 However, the guards didn't find them in the prison. They returned and reported, 23 "We found the prison locked and well-secured, with guards standing at the doors, but when we opened the doors we found no one inside!"

24 When they received this news, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were baffled and wondered what might be happening. 25 Just then, someone arrived and announced, “Look! The people you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!” 26 Then the captain left with his guards and brought the apostles back. They didn’t use force because they were afraid the people would stone them. 27 The apostles were brought before the council where the high priest confronted them: 28 “In no uncertain terms, we demanded that you not teach in this name....” 29 Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than humans!...”

2) Tune in through Jesus. Then do what God tells you to do.

THINK IT OVER

What is some advice you’ve been given that has been clearly against God? What did you do?

33 When the council members heard this, they became furious and wanted to kill the apostles. 34 One council member, a Pharisee and teacher of the Law named Gamaliel, well-respected by all the people, stood up and ordered that the men be taken outside for a few moments. 35 He said, “Fellow Israelites, consider carefully what you intend to do to these people. 36 Some time ago, Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and some four hundred men joined him. After he was killed, all of his followers scattered, and nothing came of that. 37 Afterward, at the time of the census, Judas the Galilean appeared and got some people to follow him in a revolt. He was killed too, and all his followers scattered far and wide. 38 Here’s my recommendation in this case: Distance yourselves from these men. Let them go! If their plan or activity is of human origin, it will end in ruin. 39 If it originates with God, you won’t be able to stop them. Instead, you would actually find yourselves fighting God!” The council was convinced by his reasoning. 40 After calling the apostles back, they had them beaten. They ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, then let them go. 41 The apostles left the council rejoicing because they had been regarded as worthy to suffer disgrace for the sake of the name. 42 Every day they continued to teach and proclaim the good news that Jesus is the Christ, both in the temple and in houses.

3) Walk with joy every time you suffer disgrace because of Jesus.

THINK IT OVER

What scars do you have as a result of the opposition of the world.