

# Opposition to the Gospel

Acts 5:12-42

## I. Introduction

*“Life is not a straight line leading from one blessing to the next and then finally to heaven. Life is a winding and troubled road. There are rockslides and precipices and dark mists and bears and slippery curves and hairpin turns that make you go backward in order to go forward. God is plotting the course and managing the troubles with far-reaching purposes for our good for the glory of Jesus Christ.” – John Piper*

## II. Two Realities Regarding Opposition to the Gospel

### A. Opposition will come to those who proclaim the gospel (v.17-40)

Acts 1: 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Luke 21: 12 they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. 13 This will be your opportunity to bear witness. 14 Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, 15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict...

I Peter 2: 13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution

#### 1. Hostile Persecution

John 15: 20 Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.

2. Moderate Indecision

Acts 22: 3 “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel...

*“Evangelism itself isn’t converting people; it’s telling them that they need to be converted and telling them how they can be.” –Mark Dever*

**B. Opposition will not stop the advance of the gospel (v. 41-42)**

Matthew 5: 11 “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Philippians 1: 12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. 14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

**The Main Point:**

**Opposition to the gospel only propels the gospel forward with greater intensity.**

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