

Lives Transformed

From worshippers hiding behind locked doors to street preachers risking beating and prison.

What ever happened???

Psalm 150

- Hallelujah!
- Praise God in his holy house of worship
- Praise him under the open skies
- Praise him for his acts of power
- Praise him for his magnificent greatness
- Praise him with a blast on a trumpet
- Praise by strumming soft strings

Con't

- Praise him with castenets and dance
- Praise him with banjo and flute
- Praise him with cymbals and a big bass drum
- Praise him with fiddles and mandolin
- Let every living breathing creature praise Yahweh!
- Hallelujah!!!!

Whatever sparks that attitude of heart and mind??

- We will re-visit this question at the end.....
- Let's read from Acts Ch 5 vs 27-32 – a record of what transformed Jesus disciples from hidden worshippers to Apostles championing the Gospel of the living Christ.

What happened before the Apostles faced the Sanhedrin - (a Jewish Court of 70+men)

- Apostles performed miracles
- Burgeoning number of believers
- Sadducees jealous onlookers – who jailed the Apostles
- An Angel liberated them and said:-
- “ *Tell the people the full message of this new life!*”

The High priest and his minions convened the Sanhedrin and discover that these annoying Jesus followers were not in prison but inexplicably back in the temple court PREACHING... again!!!

Accusation made

- You were told NOT to teach in this name –
 - This was directly opposite to the Angel's instruction to the Apostles
 - You preachers are '*blaming us for Jesus death*'.
-
- Peter's response
 - *We must obey God and not men*

What they said -led by Peter

- The God of our fathers (OK?) who raised Jesus from the dead (not OK according to the Sadducees)..... you killed him..... But God exalted him to his right hand..... So the sins of Israel could be forgiven....
- **We are witnesses of these things** as is the Holy Spirit
- **What had they witnessed?**.... Something giving them the courage to defy the Sanhedrin....

John Ch 20 vs 19-31 – tells us some of what they witnessed

- But these are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ the son of God and that by believing you may have life in his name.
- This new TRANSFORMED life experienced by those who saw and believed
- Do we believe the witness of those whose lives have been transformed ?
- Return to our Acts passage for an erudite comment on this....

Gamaliel's wise words

- This famous Pharisee said:-
- Be careful what you do to these men
- Remember Thadeus and his 400 followers....he was killed and his followers dispersed
- Remember Judas – who opposed paying Roman taxes... he was killed and his followers dispersed
- SO
- If the teaching of these Apostles is human in origin.... It will fail
- If the teaching is from God – **Watch out....**

Disciples kept on rejoicing and preaching

- Undeterred by beatings and imprisonment....
- What made the difference!

- The Resurrection!!!

The life changing, praise inducing, reason for a transformed life.

- Peter's words (1 Peter ch1 vs 3-9).

A hymn writers words...

- Were the whole realm of nature mine
- That were and offering far too small
- Love so amazing , do divine
- Demands my LIFE my SOUL my ALL.