

Acts 5:17-42 Being on Mission

The book the purpose driven life by Pastor Rick Warren has sold over 50 million copies worldwide.

A) It remains the bestselling hardcover non-fiction book in history

B) It is the second most translated book after the Bible. Translated into 137 languages

C) Question: Why was this book so popular with people across the world?

D) Answer: There is a deep seeded longing in the heart of every human being – to Know WHAT IS THEIR PURPOSE IN LIFE.

Here is another question worth pondering - What is the purpose or Mission of the Church?

A) Depends who you talk to.

B) Some people today - The focus seems to be to make Jesus more Relevant or Popular

1) Others to politicize Jesus

C) For some the purpose of the church is to instill a moral upbringing in THEIR kids.

1) For others the church is more of a social club - the place where I have friends -

D) Still others the church is a place for good clean moral entertainment

E) Maybe part of the reason so many people are leaving church today and the church is so ineffective

1) We don't know what our purpose and mission is.

"We do not want, as the newspapers say, a church that will move with the world. We want a church that will MOVE the world." —G. K. Chesterton

Here in the book of Acts we have been seeing the Beginnings of the first Jesus people Movement in the World - First Jesus Revolution

A) The church of Jesus Christ was this unstoppable force in the world

B) They were Turning their world upside down

C) And doing so In the midst of heavy opposition from outside forces

1) But the church continued to grow and radically impact their culture

D) And that was in a culture where it was not popular to be a Jesus follower.

1) It was becoming more and more dangerous

We saw the beginning waves of that persecution in Ch. 4

A) Threats - physical harm and trying to silence the apostles -

B) Here is Acts 5 we are going to see 3 more Waves of opposition that come against the early church.

C) But Jesus continues to move powerfully through his people despite the growing opposition.

1st Wave of persecution in Acts 5¹⁷ Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation,

A) The Sadducees were a very small minority, very wealthy and very influential Jews.

B) The Sadducees were the theological liberals of their day, and they were the ones who collaborated with Rome

C) They were Rome's puppets in keeping Peace in Israel. They were the ruling party in Israel

Now when it says that they were filled with Indignation - literally they were boiling over with Jealousy.

A) Their authority and power among the people was being threatened by this new move of Jesus followers

B) And they didn't like it one bit! Been said that what you are filled by is what you are controlled by.

C) Their Jealousy is going to control their actions - told in V.18 they laid their hands on the apostles threw them into the common prison.

D) The common prison was like the county Jail - 1) so are in lock up - with all the other criminals

One of the things we see over and over again in the book of Acts is that Prison is no problem for God!

A) His work cannot be stopped by prison doors!

B) Acts 16 we will see when Paul and Silas get thrown in Prison - Midnight they are singing -

1) God sends an earthquake - opens the doors

C) Here in Acts 5:19 We see another Divine Deliverance - God sends an Angel - 19 But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out,

Now this gives us insight into God's sense of Humor

A) Did you know God has a sense of Humor - Look around

B) Why does this reveal God's sense of Humor?

The Sadducees don't believe in Angels -

1) God sends one to let his apostles out of Prison ☺

C) So what we see here in V.19 Is Divine Deliverance

D) The Divine Deliverance is followed by a Divine commission V.20 "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

One of the reasons why the early church was so powerful is this:

A) They were very clear about that was their mission and purpose.

B) Today we are going to see what happens to a group of believers who know what is their Mission and Purpose in this culture.

C) See - What happens with a group of people who are committed to being on Mission together.

Divine Commission V.20 "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

A) This was their mission - Go and declare to everyone - all the people - the words of this life.

B) Jesus said, **"I have come that you might have life now and have it more abundantly"** (see John 10:10).

C) To every person wanting to know what is my Purpose - it is to KNOW JESUS -

1) live in relationship with him.

D) Abundant life - overflowing life is ONLY found in Jesus

E) There was a time in Jesus' earthly ministry where he was giving some tough teachings -

1) the crowds couldn't handle it, began to dwindle/leave

Jesus looked at his disciples and asked - are you guys going to leave me as well?

A) Peter responded: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. John 6:68-69

B) Life is in You - you are it! You are the one we are living for -

C) The Apostle John would later write in his epistle: *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. (1 John 1:1–2)*

D) He would add in V. 4 **In him was life, and that life was the light of men. (John 1:4)**

Their mission was to declare and to talk about the Life that was found in Jesus

A) **Who diedsins - Rose again to give life** to all who would believe and follow Him.

B) Guys we need to know why we are here. As a church and as individuals

C) We are Not here to help people figure out how to have their best life now.

No we are Here to help people know where they are going in the next life

A) We are Not here to push a political agenda - **(politics have their place)**

B) We are here to promote a King and a Kingdom that is not of this world

C) Listen If we want to be used effectively as the church and as individuals who make up the church

1) In this broken world we need to know what our mission is?

We need Preach Jesus - be concerned with the souls of men

A) We are Called to be Ministers of reconciliation -

B) Called to Help reconcile people who are far from God- and connect them with Jesus

C) That is our PRIMARY MISSION as individual followers of Jesus - and as the church.

Here is what I want us to see in the rest of our time together today.

A) What happens when you know your Mission and purpose.

B) Note: Four things that we see in the Early Church that allowed them to be so focused and effective

1) Because they knew their mission

#1 People who know their Mission don't procrastinate.

A) The angel gives them their Divine commission V.20 "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people **all the words of this life.**"

B) Notice: V21 **And when they heard that, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught.**

Note that: They entered into the temple early in the morning. I like that! It doesn't say, "A) They went into the temple the first chance they had," or "They waited until noon."

A) They went into the temple the first chance they had," or "They waited until noon."

B) No, following their release from prison the night before,

1) the apostles headed straight for the temple early the next morning.

C) One of the traits that we will see over and over about the early church, that made them so effective

D) They respond to the Lord immediately!

Do you know what the Largest nation in the world is today? **procrasti-nation.**

A) Many of us live in that world - Our tendency is to say: I will take care of it tomorrow.

B) I will deal with that next time - How many of you have at least one thing – You have been procrastinating about?

Procrastination may not be a big deal when it relates to things of everyday life. {Marriage

A) But Procrastination is a real problem in our spiritual life.

B) Procrastination stifles the work of God in our lives!

1) Do the next thing!

C) Quit worrying about 5 yrs from now – just do the next thing

1) Do what God is telling you to do now!

D) More doors will open

I read of one very wealthy inventor who said,

"Without exception, after I have invented something and patented it, at least ten men come to me and say, "I thought of that a long time ago."

A) Then he added -the difference between their poverty and my wealth is that they thought about it, and I *did* it."

B) I wonder - How many people watch Shark tank - and think -

1) I had that exact same idea - but didn't act on it.

Listen do you want to be Rich in the Lord

A) When the Lord speaks to your heart, be it in Bible study, in devotions, through a book you read, or through a sister or brother,

B) Learn to respond immediately.

C) When you do that - you are giving the Holy Spirit the opportunity to move in your life

D) The more you respond to the Lord - the more he will speak to you

1) The more doors will open for you

Does God's voice seem distant to you? Are you not getting an answer to your prayer?

A) Could it be that you have acted yet - from the last time God directed you and answered your prayer?

B) Could it be that He is waiting for you to respond - until he gives you further instruction?

C) One thing we will see often in the book of Acts about the early church

1) They had a tendency to respond immediately - because they knew their mission and purpose.

What happens next is Hilarious {Love it V.21b But the high priest and those with him came and called the council together, with all the elders of the children of Israel, High priest shows up with his entourage and sent to the prison to have them brought.

22 But when the officers came and did not find them in the prison, they returned and reported,

D) We have some good news and some bad news - which do you want first?

Good news first

23 saying, "we found the prison {good The doors were shut securely, {great the guards standing outside before the doors; {excellent

Now the bad news:

but when we opened them, we found no one inside!" The prisoners were not there 😊

Don't you just love the BIBLE!

24 Now when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these things, they wondered what the outcome would be.

They wondered is a Poor Translation - not strong enough at all.

A) The Greek means they were at their wits end;

B) They were on the verge of going bananas in their vernacular.

1) They were in a state of sort of semi-panic.

C) We would say they were Perplexed and freaking out -

1) what are we going to do with this group - how are we going to stop them!

D) V.25 adds to the Humor of this situation

25 So one came and told them, saying, "Look, (Behold - you are never going to believe this) the men whom you put in prison { guess where they are at? They are standing in the temple and teaching the people!"

A) They are right back where they were yesterday when you arrested them.

B) Like those trick birthday candles that you blow and then they go out - come back on

C) Déjà vu - Ok go and arrest them again!!! 😊

Wave #2 of opposition V.26-33

26 Then the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned. 27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, 28 saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name?"

The High priest says - look we didn't tell you that you couldn't speak

A) We simply told you that you couldn't speak about someone.

B) There was a particular name you were not to use

C) The High Priest doesn't want to say the name

1) Doesn't want to say JESUS

#2 When you know the mission - you don't get side tracked on other things or trivial matters

A) The Mission was to declare the words of Life - life is found in Jesus

B) They have been consistent to the mission

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins;"

Acts 3:6 "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

Acts 4:10 "...that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole."

Acts 4:18 **“So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.”**

It is all about the name of Jesus

A)Notice V.28b - **You have filled the Jerusalem with your doctrine**

B)What a wonderful indictment! - Their Doctrine was about Jesus

C)Question: What do we want to fill Vista with - Calvary Chapel or JESUS ?

1)We want to make **Jesus FAMOUS** - not ourselves

Now V.28c is ALSO interesting

You **intend to bring this Man's blood on us!"**

A)Are you blaming us for His death. **His blood on us?**

B)Interesting that they would use that terminology -His blood on us.

C)If you recall at the trial of Jesus - Pilate said to the crowd that these very religious leaders had stirred up

1)I don't find any fault with this man - I think we should let him go

The religious leaders Vehemently objected and screamed that they wanted Jesus to be crucified.

A)Pilate being more concerned about the approval of the People than what was right -

B)said THIS:- **I am innocent of this man's blood - IN OTHER WORDS - This is on you guys**

C)to which the people replied May **“His blood be on us and on our children.”**

D)The very thing they were worried about - they had actually asked for - 50-60 days prior at crucifixion

Notice Peters response here:V.29

29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.

#3 People who know their mission are interested in pleasing God and not men.

A)There was only one in the audience that they were concerned with pleasing and that was God.

B)With that type of conviction they were an unstoppable force.

C)There is a place for peaceful Civil Disobedience

D)Good advice for simply – living – Obey God than man.

1)Boyfriend – sex - Boss lie / friends party –

E)**Fear of God beginning of wisdom - Fear of man snare**

1)**LIVE FOR AN AUDIENCE OF ONE**

Now Because they were focused on pleasing God and not men -

A)They didn't shy away from the hard conversations - tell it like it is

B)Peter does it again here V.30 **The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.**

31 Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

C)Peter was blunt with these men - didn't hold back

1)It is true you crucified Jesus but God raised him and exalted him.

D)This is where the religious leaders were missing the point -

1)They were hearing - you are saying we murdered the Messiah

E)What they were not hearing is but God raised him from the dead -

1)He is offering forgiveness and life to all who believed - **To All who would repent of their sins**

People today do the same thing - they hear - You are a sinner

A)Offended by that - but they don't hear the rest of the message

B)Jesus died to pay the price for your sins - rose ... Life

C) All sinned - Missed the mark - Not Righteous

D) There is a righteousness of God that is apart from the law - through faith in JESUS

E) JUSTIFIED - Just as if you never sinned - declared righteous!!!!

Peter uses an interesting Phrase here. Has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior

A) The fact that Jesus Christ is at God's right hand is a key theme in the Scriptures.

B) The right hand is, of course, the place of honor, power, and authority.

1) The Scriptures make numerous references to Him being at that Place.

The word *Prince* means "a pioneer, one who leads the way, an originator." AUTHOR

A) In the book of Hebrews - Jesus is called the author - originator of our FAITH

B) The word Prince is Archegos in the Greek -

1) and this word was used in a special way amongst fishermen

C) Peter was a fisherman - On each ship there was a strong swimmer who was called the archēgos.

D) Whenever the ship got into trouble, STORM

1) his job was, with a rope around his waist, to dive in, swim to shore

E) He would secure the rope, and then everybody else could get to shore on that rope.

1) THE WORLD WAS IN A STORM OF SIN - Jesus dove into our world - secure the rope of salvation

The book of Hebrews uses this same idea - Jesus is the author of our salvation - the originator

A) ALSO THE FINISHER - HE WILL SEE IT TO THE END!

B) He didn't just secure the way - he is committed to make sure we make it - if we will trust him

C) He is faithful to complete the work that He began in you! -

When Peter talked about Jesus being exalted to the right hand of God -

A) The religious leaders didn't want to hear this: They were incensed!!!! - Furious.

33 When they heard this, they were furious and plotted to kill them. Plotting murder again

34 Then one in the council stood up, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in respect by all the people, and commanded them to put the apostles outside for a little while.

B) Gamaliel was a Pharisee named, a teacher of the law held in respect by all the people, **the DUDE**

C) THE TEACHER - PERSONAL TEACHER OF Saul of Tarsus -

1) who we will see in Ch. 9 tries to single handedly destroy the church

2) After his conversion - He becomes Paul the Apostle

Gamaliel wisdom

35 And he said to them: "Men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what you intend to do regarding these men. 36 For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody. A number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was slain, and all who obeyed him were scattered and came to nothing. 37 After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away many people after him. He also perished, and all who obeyed him were dispersed. Guys we have seen this before - they come and they go

38 And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; 39 but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it - lest you even be found to fight against God."

Literally - You become a God fighter

40 And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, - 3rd Wave of opposition in this chapter - Beat with Rods -

they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 So they departed from the presence of the council,

rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

That last line is so convicting – rejoicing – counted worthy to suffer for THE NAME.

A) They were rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer for JESUS

B) This is one of those statements that defy our imagination.

C) This exemplifies the paradox of Christianity - the way up is down, the way to gain is to lose,
1) the way to be strong is to be weak, the way to receive grace is to be humble

Here Luke describes the paradoxical privilege of suffering for Jesus.

A) It makes no sense to the watching world!

B) But it makes all sense to those who are waiting for another world!

#4 Those who Know their mission and who are on mission - They See the Big Picture

A) **Please hear me:** This is one of the biggest problems we face as believers living in our western culture.

B) We live in a culture, that is so focused on this life - **so focused on the here and now.**

C) We are a wealthy nation: We as a nation are materialistically minded -

1) We spend money without even thinking

Our culture craves the latest new thing.

A) We want it now mentality is rampant - why businesses like Amazon are so profitable

B) That materialistic mindset creeps into our Christianity

C) We equate blessing from God with how much we have, how much we make.

How are you doing? I am blessed.

A) We describe that as - Job is good - just bought a new..... Kids are healthy / marriage thriving

B) Listen: I am not condemning that mentality per se

It is easy to think that way

1) Nor I am not suggesting - that being healthy and having adequate finances are not a **sign of blessed.**

C) But what I am trying to get you to see is that the early church had a completely different mindset

They were way more others focused than self focused

A) They were given to being focused on the needs of others over their own needs -

B) Selling homes, land, and using the money to take care of others. Why?

C) They were focused on a **King and a Kingdom** that was not of this world. - Later is longer!

That is why they could rejoice that they were counted worthy to suffer with Jesus

A) I don't think - many of us living in the west would think that way -

B) We try to avoid suffering at all cost -

C) But **THEY Realized the battle was spiritual -**

1) The opposition wasn't personal - the one's who were opposing them were opposing Jesus

D) Their mindset was more eternal than temporal

Paul said: **The sufferings of this life are not to be compared with the eternal weight of glory that awaits us**

The weight of what God has for us in glory - is beyond our comprehension. - Capacity

A) It is going to blow our minds

B) They saw the big picture - they were focused on Jesus - rejoiced counted worthy to suffer for him

C) Stayed on Mission V42 ⁴² And **daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.**

In Closing: Ask you this question

A) What has God been speaking to you about - procrastinating?

B) Putting off - obedience? Step of faith?

1) Making a change?

C) Breaking off a relationship -

Jesus Loves you will you trust Him?

Jesus said today is the day of salvation

A) You have been procrastinating in responding

B) Tomorrow is promised to no man - Turn to Jesus today

C) **Be justified - Sins forgiven - forgotten - guilt removed**

1) The Life you are longing for is found in JESUS

PRODIGAL - COME HOME

A) QUIT PUTTING IT OFF - today come to your senses

B) His arms are open wide for you