



1. Count _____
(vv.33, 40)

2. Fear _____
(vv.34-39)

3. Gladly _____
(vv.41-42)

Acts 5:33 When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. **34** But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. **35** And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. **36** For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. **37** After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. **38** So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; **39** but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, **40** and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. **41** Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. **42** And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.
(ESV)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **Luke 14:27-33**. Before you became a Christian, what were some of "the costs" you had to count when you were being drawn to Christ? How has making those "payments" worked out?
2. Read **1 John 3:13** and **1 Peter 4:1-4**. How has the call to not indulge in sinful activities brought challenges to your relationships with non-Christians?
3. Read **Luke 6:22-23**. How would you advise a new Christian to prepare for the realities itemized in these words of Christ?

4. Read **Acts 5:41** and **1 Peter 4:12-19**. In what situations have you been successful in "rejoicing" when you've suffered because of your allegiance to Christ?
5. Read **2 Corinthians 2:14-17**. How can the fear of the Lord and a seriousness about your role as a representative of the gospel help you be more optimistic when you are forced to pay some unpleasant price for being a Christian?

This Week's Bible Reading Schedule

December 5th

Dan. 5-6 & 1Jn. 4

December 6th

Dan. 7-8 & 1Jn. 5

December 7th

Dan. 9-10 & 2Jn.

December 8th

Dan. 11-12 & 3Jn.

December 9th

Hos. 1-4 & Jude

December 10th

Hos. 5-8 & Rev. 1

December 11th

Hos. 9-11 & Rev. 2

December 12th

Hos. 12-14 & Rev. 3

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FocalPointMinistries.org).

Msg. 14-35 – **When Following Christ is Painful**

Msg. 19-30 – **Unfazed by Sovereign Challenges**

Msg. 08-21 – **Gospel Crazy: Unashamed of Its Reproach**

Msg. 19-39 – **When Our Light Shines in the Darkness**

Msg. 15-35 – **The Fear of Rejection**

Msg. 13-38 – **When You're Ridiculed for Christ**

Msg. 15-03 – **When You've Been Rejected**

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PastorMike

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Cochran, Gregory. **Christians in the Crosshairs: Persecution in the Bible and Around the World Today**. WBC, 2016.

Foxe, John. **Foxe's Book of Martyrs**. The John C. Winston Co., 1926.

Hefley, James and Marti. **By Their Blood: Christian Martyrs of the 20th Century**. Baker Books, 1996.

Lawson, Steven L. **Absolutely Sure: Settle the Question of Eternal Life**. Multnomah, 1999.

Lloyd-Jones, Martyn. **Assurance of Our Salvation: Studies in John 17**. Crossway Books, 2000.

Mack, Wayne. **Courage: Fighting Fear with Fear**. P & R Publishing, 2014.

Mohler, Albert. **We Cannot Be Silent: Speaking Truth to a Culture**. Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2015.

Nyquist, Paul. **Prepare: Living Your Faith in an Increasingly Hostile Culture**. Moody Publishers, 2015.

Packer, J. I. **A Quest for Godliness**. Crossway Books, 1994.

Pritchard, Ray. **An Anchor for the Soul: Help for the Present, Hope for the Future**. Moody Press, 2000.

Ryle, J. C. **Five English Reformers**. Banner of Truth, 1960.

Water, Mark, ed. **The New Encyclopedia of Christian Martyrs**. Baker Books, 2001.

Welch, Edward. **Running Scared: Fear, Worry and the God of Rest**. New Growth Press, 2007.

Wiersbe, Warren, ed. **Classic Sermons on Suffering**. Kregel Publishing, 1984.