

Sunday – March 3, 2024



"No Challenge, No Change"
Acts 5:25-32

Very few of us like to be stressed. We like our comfort and the status quo of life. But athletic coaches, life coaches, and even God says that unless we are stretched, we do not grow and change. Challenges force us to put who we are and what we believe into action. Am I up for the challenge?

KEY VERSE: *"We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging Him on a tree."* (Acts 5:29)

How do my challenges measure up against the early followers?

I NEED TO _____ **WHAT I SAY I** _____.

Read Acts 5:29-32

Is my belief _____?

God reaffirmed the call on the disciples- Acts 5:20.

When and who has affirmed, or reaffirmed your call? Do I know what my call is?

I NEED TO BE READY FOR _____.

Read Acts 5:32,33.

Am I ready to be _____?

The disciples needed to be challenged in their faith. Up to this point in their early ministry they had the wonders and the work of God right in front of them. This next step would cause them to really trust in what God had said, what he was doing, and what they believed about what God was doing in them.

Read *Matthew 16:18*. How does this verse encourage you today?

What have you seen God doing in your life? Around you? Through you?

IN MY SUFFERING I FIND _____.

Read Acts 5:41,42.

Can I find joy in _____?

Paradoxes surround us all the time. Contrary ideas, themes that cause us to grow in ways we can't understand. Joy in suffering is one.

Read *James 1:2-4* and *Romans 5:3-8*. How can I find encouragement from these verses?

How have you experienced God growing you in your faith, despite the hard circumstances? What has been the long- term outcome for you?

What bridge is Jesus/ has Jesus made in your life?

THIS WEEK:

- Are you in a time of joy or suffering right now? Who can you invite into this moment with you?
- What area of my faith do I think is being stressed right now? How can this chapter encourage me to keep going?
- The apostle's message did not change, our message should not. In what ways has your message been challenged to be changed in response to outside influences?
- Who can I share God's message of joy with this week?

Next Week: "Building Bridges Not Mountains"