



“Heroes of the Faith”

Acts 5:17-42 ♦ Pastor Jim Lennon
September 8, 2024

Introduction – *Believers in Jesus continued to face opposition for witnessing about Jesus. But even when threatened and punished, they continue to speak courageously and boldly about Jesus.*

I. Courageous Choices.

A. Believers in Jesus continually faced opposition from the Jewish and secular authorities.

B. Up until 300 AD there were at least 10 systematic persecutions of Christians in the Roman empire, where they were imprisoned, plundered, tortured, and killed.

C. And yet, they kept on witnessing about Jesus and giving grace to their persecutors.

D. Acts 4 and 5 suggest how and why they were able to do that.

II. The Source of Courage.

A. First, their courage came from Jesus’ promise to them.

B. Second, their courage came from their desire to obey God.

C. Third, their courage came from God, who answered their prayers.

D. Fourth, their courage came from looking at who Jesus is.

1. Peter spoke and knew Jesus as “Prince” and “Savior.”

2. The word “Prince” is unusual and is the Greek word “Archehos,” which means “Hero.”

3. Jesus is both like and unlike ancient and modern day mythic heroes.

a. How Jesus is like them –

b. How Jesus is unlike them -

Conclusion.