



Big Idea: Share Christ with indefatigable persistence.

1.) Never make excuses (v. 17-20).

-- There is no excuse not to proclaim Christ (v. 17-20).

-- v. 19 - No prison on earth is sufficient to squelch the Gospel.

-- **Resistance and persecution mark the pathway to victory (Philippians 1:12-14).**

-- The more undaunted we are in sharing Christ, the more God is glorified in our testimony.

-- **v. 20 - We cannot make excuses because we possess the only words of life.**

-- When life and death are at stake, we accept no cop-outs (Romans 1:16).

2.) Never mistake our mission (v. 20-29).

-- **v. 20 - God released the apostles from prison for a reason.**

-- They were set free so that the Gospel would be sent forward.

-- In Christ, God has set us free from the prison of our sin with a mission in mind (2 Corinthians 5:17-19).

-- **v. 21 - Sharing Christ is a matter of _____.**

-- Notice the motivation mentioned: *"When they heard this..."*

-- The apostles received the order, and in their great gratitude and joy they set out to obey it immediately.

-- v. 28-29 - The apostles clearly viewed evangelism as a matter of obedience.

-- **Jesus has called us not only to come to Him but to go for Him.**

3.) Never miss an **opportunity** (v. 30-33).

- The moxie of the apostles here is amazing.
- To the apostles, there were no insurmountable obstacles to sharing the Gospel, just God-appointed opportunities (Colossians 4:5-6, 1 Peter 3:15).

4.) Remember who **rules** (v. 34-39).

- v. 35-38 - Normally, a new movement dies if its chief figure is eliminated.
- The **resurrection** makes all the difference.
 - Unlike every other belief system on earth, we serve a leader who rose from the dead.
- In essence, Gamaliel is saying, "If God is with Jesus' followers, we cannot stand against them" (Romans 8:31-32).
 - Paul puts it this way: *"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain"* (Philippians 1:21).
 - If Christ is our everything, we cannot lose!

5.) Rejoice in our **privilege** (v. 41-42).

- The New Testament consistently reveals that suffering for Christ is a profound privilege (v. 41, Phil. 1:29, Col. 1:24).
- Sharing Christ is a **no-lose** proposition. There are only three possible outcomes:
 - 1.) Through my testimony, a sinner is saved.
 - 2.) The seed of the Gospel is planted in a human heart.
 - 3.) We have the privilege of participating in the sufferings of Christ.
 - We exemplify and exalt Jesus when we are willing to suffer for the salvation of others.
 - To the degree that our hearts are set on heaven, we will rejoice in our privilege to be rejected for Jesus' sake.