



Big Idea:
The Gospel of Jesus Christ requires a response. What say you?

- v. 30-32 - The **GOSPEL** is proclaimed.
- **Their message in this passage is our message to the world.**
 - This message does not originate with us but with God.
 - This message is not for our amusement: It demands a response.

Three Basic Responses to the Gospel

1.) HOSTILE Opposition (v. 33)

- **Consider the evidence before this hostile council (Acts 4:16, 5:16).**
 - Only hearts hostile to God would ignore such obvious confirmations of the Gospel.
 - People rooted in self-worship hate facing the idea of a sovereign God (Ephesians 4:17-19).
- **Rather than submitting to the message, people try to SILENCE the messenger (Acts 9:20-23).**
 - Instead of earnestly considering Paul's powerful message, the Jewish leaders set their hearts on eliminating him.
 - This same reaction is ubiquitous today.
- **Some respond to the Gospel with ANGER**
 - Much of the hostility we see in our society is, at its root, hostility toward the truth of Jesus Christ.

-- **Some respond to the Gospel with VIOLENCE**

-- Only hardhearted hostility toward God could imagine murder to be a just sentence for proclaiming the Gospel.

-- **Application** - Check your heart for hostile opposition to God.

-- *Are there clear truths from God's Word that make you mad?*

-- *Do any of God's clear purposes for your life anger you?*

2.) Tolerant **INDECISION** (v. 34-39)

-- **This is the "do-nothing" crew.**

-- This group may speak fondly about Jesus, but their lives show little evidence that they belong to Him.

-- Gamaliel's plan is a picture of tolerant indecision (v. 34-39).

-- **It is foolish and dangerous to think that whatever has success on earth is PLEASING to God (v. 38-39).**

-- This is terrible advice for evaluating situations or making decisions.

-- The council should have judged the apostle's claims against Old Testament truth, not pragmatic success.

-- **It is irrational to PROCASTINATE about Christ.**

-- The worst aspect of this decision is that it provided an excuse to procrastinate about Christ (Matthew 12:30).

-- In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Gospel is sealed and a response is required.

-- **Don't buy Gamaliel's tragic PRAGMATISIM**

-- Far too many people live lives of pure pragmatism. ("I do it because it works.")

-- It is foolish to believe that if everything seems okay in our daily lives, then it must be okay with God as well (Rev. 3:15-17).

-- **Don't put off the decision about Christ that you need to make TODAY**

-- Events all around us should make obvious that the length of our days is uncertain at best.

-- Augustine - "God has promised forgiveness to your repentance, but He has not promised tomorrow to your procrastination."

-- 2 Corinthians 6:2, Hebrews 3:7-8

3.) Saving **SURRENDER** (v. 5:42-6:1)

-- Acts 5:42-6:1, Romans 10:8-13

-- God so loved the world that He gave His only Son so that whosoever believes in Him shall have eternal life. *What say you?*