

## HOW DARE YOU?

(Acts 5:27-32)

Intro: Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

How dare you?

- How dare you sit there and proclaim that Christ is risen?
- What's the matter with you?
- Don't you know how much trouble that can get you into?

- I. Look What Happened To Peter And The Apostles.
  - A. In The Book Of Acts.
    1. For the next seven weeks.
      - a. Rest of the Easter season.
      - b. Through Pentecost Sunday.
      - c. One of our Sunday readings is from Acts.
    2. Our Church Council has committed Ascension to a congregational renewal process.
      - a. Called *Seeds for Growth*.
        - 18-month process.
        - Beginning the end of May.
        - Leaders of that process have not yet been identified.
        - You'll be hearing more as the weeks go by.
      - b. One of the initial steps in *Seeds for Growth*.
        - Study the Book of Acts.
    3. Our Daytime 5x5 Group resumed this past Wednesday.
      - a. We'll be meeting:
        - 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays.
        - Now through August.
        - #5 months.
        - 10:30.
        - In the Adult Classroom.
      - b. We've decided to study the Book of Acts.
        - It's not too late to join us.
        - We only covered Acts 1 last week.
    4. You can read the Book of Acts on your own.
      - a. What we get on Sunday morning.
        - Bits and pieces.
      - b. We don't always get the context.

B. Peter And The Apostles Were On Trial.

1. Before the Sanhedrin.
  - a. Religious council.
    - In Jerusalem.
  - b. Same group that had condemned Jesus to death.
2. They were accused of:
  - a. Teaching in the name of Jesus.
  - b. Criticizing the authorities who had nailed Jesus to a tree.
  - c. Proclaiming that God:
    - Had not only raised Jesus from the dead.
    - But had glorified him.
      - #Exalted him to the right hand of God as:
        - \*Leader/Messiah.
        - \*Savior.
3. This was their second trial.
  - a. That's what we miss when we only read bits and pieces.
    - On Sunday morning.
  - b. In Acts 4.
    - They were:
      - #Arrested.
      - #Charged with:
        - \*Proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus.
        - \*Healing.
        - \*Teaching.
          - + In Jesus' name.
      - #Put on trial.
        - \*Before the Sanhedrin.
      - #Put on probation.
        - \*Released on their own recognizance.
        - \*Warned not to do it again.
    - c. In Acts 5.
      - They did it again.
      - They were again:
        - #Arrested.
        - #Put in jail.
        - #Put on trial.
      - High priest said to them:
        - #"How dare you?"
        - #"How dare you?"
          - \*"Continue to teach in this name."
          - \*"Continue to proclaim resurrection."
          - \*"Defy our orders."
          - \*"Try to turn the people against us."

- +Apostles had 5000 converts.  
=Acts 4: 4.
- +Some of those were ready:  
=To throw stones at the Temple police.  
-Sent to take the apostles to court.  
#Acts 5:26.
- This time there would be no slap on the wrist.  
#Some members of the Sanhedrin.  
\*Wanted the apostles executed.  
+Acts 5: 33.
- In the end.  
#Apostles were:  
\*Whipped.  
\*Told not to do it again.  
\*Released.

### C. Did The Apostles Dare To Open Their Mouths After That?

1. They dared.
  - a. Everyday they preached.  
-In the Temple.  
-In private homes.  
#From house to house?  
#Acts 5: 42.
  - b. To proclaim the Good News of Jesus the Christ without interruption.  
-Acts 5: 42.
2. They dared.
  - a. To suffer for what they believed in.  
-Acts 5: 41.
  - b. To obey God rather than any human authority.  
-Acts 5: 29.
  - c. To be witnesses.  
-Because the Holy Spirit empowered them.
3. They dared.

## II. Do We Dare?

### A. It's Not Always An Easy Dare.

1. One of the books in my library.
  - a. For the last 30 years.
  - b. *Who Dares to Preach?*  
-*The Challenge of Biblical Preaching.*  
-Wallace E. Fisher.

2. Who dares?
  - a. To speak for God.
    - Law and Gospel.
    - Judgement and grace.
  - b. To stand up here every week.
    - Preach the text.
    - Proclaim the Gospel.
    - Illustrate.
      - #With timely examples.
      - \*That clarify.
      - \*Without rubbing too many people the wrong way.
  - c. To subject themselves to:
    - Criticism.
    - Second-guessing.
    - Being tuned out.
3. Who dares?

#### B. Will You Dare?

1. To be a part of congregational renewal.
  - a. This is not something that can be done for us by:
    - Pastor.
    - Church Council.
    - Dream Team.
    - #Suggested name for those who lead:
      - \* *Seeds for Growth.*
  - b. This will involve the entire congregation.
2. Will you dare?
  - a. To engage in 100 Days of Prayer.
    - With.
    - For.
      - #Ascension Lutheran Church.
      - #Mission and ministry of the Church of Jesus Christ.
  - b. To explore the Book of Acts.
    - With us.
      - #As we:
        - \*Learn.
        - \*Relearn.
          - +What the church of the 1<sup>st</sup> century.
          - +Has to say to the church of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
  - c. To be open to personal renewal.
    - As we engage in a process of congregational renewal.
3. Who dares?

- C. We Dare Because God Dares.
  - 1. God dared to send Jesus.
    - a. To proclaim:
      - In word.
      - In deed.
      - #God's judgement.
      - #God's grace.
    - b. To embody.
      - In living.
      - In dying.
      - In rising.
      - #Renewal for the world.
      - #Renewal for each one of us.
  - 2. God dared to raise up apostles.
    - a. To be witnesses.
      - However imperfect.
    - b. To teach.
      - In the name of Jesus.
    - c. To proclaim:
      - Resurrection.
      - Repentance.
      - Forgiveness.
      - #Not just to one another.
        - \*Fellow believers.
      - #But to the Sanhedrin.
        - \*Those responsible for nailing Jesus to a tree.
        - \*Who didn't share God's view of Jesus as:
          - +Leader.
          - =Messiah.
          - =Christ.
          - +Savior.
      - #And to all the world.
        - \*Beginning in:
          - +Jerusalem.
          - +Judea.
          - +Samaria.
        - \*To the ends of the earth.
          - +Acts 1:8.

3. God dared/dares to send the Holy Spirit.
  - a. To empower those first apostles.
  - b. To witness.
    - To us.
    - Through us.
      - #Even when.
      - #Especially when.
        - \*We feel:
          - +Shy.
          - +Tired.
          - +Disillusioned.
          - +Discouraged.
        - \*Our audience.
          - +Not:
            - =Fellow believers.
            - On Sunday morning.
          - +But people who may not yet recognize Jesus as:
            - =Messiah.
            - =Savior.
4. God dares to entrust the Good News of Jesus Christ.
  - a. To us.
    - Common clay pots.
      - #Like a fragile reddish brown flower pot.
    - To show that the glory belongs to God and not to us.
      - #2 Corinthians 4:7.
  - b. In:
    - Water and word.
    - Bread and wine.

Concl: God dares.

Will you?

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 Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!