

Sermon Handout

Hearing Wise Counsel

Acts 5:33-42

I. The Apostles, the Sanhedrin and a Pharisee

- a. An OT parallel Gen 37:1-36
 - i. Joseph, his brothers and Reuben vv. 3-4, 18, 21-22, 36
 - ii. Apostles, the Sanhedrin and Gamaliel vv. 29-32, 33, 34-39, 40-42
- b. In each case, one among the antagonists stays their hand
- c. In each case, the rescued goes out as God's messenger and deliverer
Israel/Church prospers but later meets renewed oppression *cf.* 12:1-3

II. Wise Counsel: Submission and Rejection vv. 33-40

- a. Sadducees need Pharisee support to punish the Apostles
 - i. Pharisees' popularity with the people was a factor *cf.* Mt 23:2
 - ii. Public support of Apostles is strong 4:21; 5:13-14; 5:26
- b. Pharisee support for Jesus & his followers another factor
 - i. Cordial toward Jesus Lk 7:36; 11:37; 14:1
 - ii. Some were secret followers Mk 15:43ff; Jn 19:38-40 *cf.* Jn 3:1-2
 - iii. Some later converted openly Acts 15:5; 28:6; Phil 3:5
- c. Gamaliel – a highly regarded Pharisee
 - i. Calls an executive session v. 34
 - ii. Issues a warning vv. 35-38
 - iii. Urges a cautious approach “don't fight against God” v. 39
- d. The Sanhedrin's resulting action v. 40
 - i. *Only* a beating now (39 strokes) *cf.* II Cor 11:24; Mk 13:9
 - ii. The advice is disregarded later 7:54, 57-60
 - iii. Saul's role 7:58; 8:1 *cf.* 22:19-20
 1. Gamaliel's warning proves true 9:1-5; 23:1-9
 2. Saul disregarded Gamaliel's warning 8:1-3

III. Joy in Suffering for Jesus vv. 41-42

- a. Jas 1:2-6 “Count it all joy”
- b. Acts 16:23-25 Paul and Silas in prison, rejoicing
- c. I Pet 4:12-13 rejoice in joining Jesus in his suffering
- d. II Cor 6:10 sorrowful, yet rejoicing
- e. Heb 10:34 joyful in the loss of property for Jesus' sake