

CHAPTER 25.10

ACTS

“WORDS OF LIFE”
Acts 5:12-42
February 12, 2017

Just say it !

I. Speak all the words of this Life. (17-26)

A. Shut away. Shut up.

B. Set free. Stand up and speak.

II. We are witnesses. (27-32)

Obey God rather than men.

The context here is about speaking the word of God !

Peter shares the gospel, again! (30-31)

1. Their guilt – hanged him on a tree.

They must repent and be forgiven.

2. God’s actions toward Jesus are the opposite of theirs.

a. They killed, God raised.

b. They wanted Him cursed, God exalted Him.

c. They wanted Him removed.

God has set Him as both Leader and Savior.

III. They never stopped teaching and preaching. (33-41)

A. Sanhedrin were enraged over their loss of control. (33)

B. Beaten and forbidden to speak in Jesus’ name. (40)

C. Rejoicing to be counted worthy. (41)

D. They just kept talking! (42)

E. Message: Jesus is Messiah !

How does this apply to me?

NEXT WEEK

“SPIRIT-FILLED LEADERS”
Acts 6:1-7

Passage Overview:

As outside forces became increasingly vocal and aggressive toward the young church in Jerusalem, it also faced the threat of internal turbulence. Stunning growth had brought into the congregation people from diverse backgrounds. Although most of the new believers were either Jews or proselytes to Judaism, they increasingly represented diverse cultural backgrounds. Growth and diversity presented new challenges.

Within the greater Jewish community of the diaspora, there were Greek speaking Jews who had also been heavily influenced by Greek thought. They were called Hellenistic Jews. As the new church cared for those in need among them, special attention was given to widows. But the widows from Hellenistic backgrounds began to be neglected. This may not have been intentional, but it demanded attention.

Internal stresses can quickly become more dangerous to the health of the body than external threats. The apostles needed to address these tensions quickly. The unity of the fledgling church was at stake.

We see important priorities and great wisdom in the approach taken by the apostles. They understood that they could not do everything. Their greatest priority had to be prayer and teaching of the word. The young believers needed to be grounded in biblical truth and as leaders, the apostles needed to be in constant communication with the Head of the Church, Jesus, through prayer.

So they enjoined the congregation to choose seven men to address the fairness issue of food distribution. These men had one primary prerequisite to being chosen. They must be filled with the Spirit. Their lives had to be under His control. Interestingly, the names of those chosen reveal that they shared a cultural background with those who were being neglected. Yet their primary identity was in Christ, controlled by His Spirit.

Reading for Next Week: Acts 6:1-7