

Following the Real Jesus:
Jesus the Hero of
The Church

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Saturday, May 1, 2021

Acts 5:28-33, 38-41; 3:15

Hebrews 12:2; John 14:21

Following the Real Jesus: Jesus the Hero of the Church.

The purpose of the church is to make disciples who make disciples. The early church did this with great boldness.

²⁸ “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.” Acts 5:28

²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. Acts 5:29-30

³¹ God exalted him to his own right hand as Hero and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. Acts 5:31

Archeogon – Hero: A person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or admirable qualities.

¹⁵ You killed the Hero of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. Acts 3:15

² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the Hero and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2

The heroic example of Jesus inspires the early church to be bold.

³² We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.” Acts 5:32

Holy Spirit is a witness. He confirms the truth of what Jesus has done. He is how God makes it “real” for you.

Holy Spirit shows us how to put faith into practice. Obedience isn’t to make bad people good, it is to make dead people alive. Your obedience is an act of God’s grace.

²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” John 14:21

³³ When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. Acts 5:33

³⁸ Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. ³⁹ But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.” Acts 5:38-39

⁴⁰ His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Acts 5:40

⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Acts 5:41

Boldness:

Is deciding to say something when it's easier to say nothing.

Takes advantage of opportunities when they come.

Creates opportunities.

Common stories of Jesus:

We had nowhere to go with our fears and failures.

We lacked purpose; it was a rudderless life.