

## Sacrificing for the Kingdom

I remind you of the price some paid to obey God. It is in Acts 5.

Acts 5:27-33 (NIV) Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. "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." Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men! The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead—whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.

Acts 5:40-42 (NIV) 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. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

How different was their attitude towards suffering for God versus our attitude towards whatever it costs us to follow Christ. Maybe we have had it too good, too comfortable, too easy to follow Jesus.

Once used to such living, it is hard to give it up, even to go where Jesus is going. If it is hard "for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven", it is just as hard for a Christian to give up the comfortable, the familiar, the preferred, in order to go where Jesus is going.

What of your life now are you not willing to give up even to follow Jesus wherever He is taking you, or us? One of our hymns says, "wherever He leads, I'll go." Are those just words, or do we really mean it when we sing them? Can you say to Jesus today, and mean it, "Wherever You lead, I'll go, no matter what it costs,"? Do so now.

- pastor Robin