

Acts of Jesus, Lesson 16: Things Haven't Changed

We've been in a study of the book of Acts and we are going to see that the situation and obligation of the church then is the same for us today.

- There are four factors that were present in the early Church that will always be present when the Church is operating as She should.
 1. The Factor of Power --- The message of Jn. 3:16 is the summation of the message of the entire Bible, and since that is so then simple logic would tell us that God is backing His entire message with His entire power.
 - He has no other projects!!
 - Listen to the account of the early church: Acts 4:33
 - Reminiscent of Matt. 28:19-20
 - God's power is fully backing the project of telling the world that there is a Savior.
 2. The second factor that was present then and is present now is the Factor of Opposition.
 - Acts 5:17-18
 - Wherever the gospel goes it always accomplishes several things: It invites people, attracts people, redeems people, and it enrages people.
 - God's primary project is backing those who are getting the word out about His Son; Satan's primary project is stopping that project.
 - Acts 5:28 – Satan doesn't care what you believe as long as you keep your mouth shut!!!
 3. The third factor is the Factor of Freedom.: Acts 5:19-20
 - There is total freedom for those who would speak the gospel.
 - Why? Because of the One Who holds the door open: Rev. 3:8
 - Not up to us to keep the door for the gospel open...it is up to Him!!
 4. A fourth and final factor that was present in the early Church and will always be present when the Church is doing what she should is the Factor of Rejoicing.
 - VV. 40-41
 - "Worthy to suffer Shame" {Contradiction in terms}
 - A Contradiction is what believers are:
 - Human and yet righteous.
 - Among the dead and yet alive.
 - Among the lost and yet found.
 - Among the enemies of God and yet children of God .
 - The way we live ought to be a similar contradiction: mistreated, maligned, and yet rejoicing.