

Bible e-Study on the book of Acts (5:40c-41)

AND ON and ON IT GOES and GOES

'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 for the Name.' Acts 5:40c-41

NUGGET – Again like last week we see the name of Jesus as being central to what takes place in Acts. But here, especially in verse 41, it's 'suffering' for the Name that brings a new emphasis. And also notice that now it's referred to simply as, the Name.

This shorthand version of reference to Jesus' name becomes important both now and down the road, as we'll see later. But here is the first instance of its use. And again, take in the context of it. It's used within the framework of suffering.

The joy of the apostles comes not from suffering, but for being 'counted worthy to suffer disgrace for the Name.' They are not rejoicing because they simply get to suffer. They do not earn a reward or in some form or fashion please God in this way. No, their joy is found in the disgrace they endured *only* because what they did and what they said was in the Name of Jesus. It wasn't because:

- they were being obnoxious, rude or offensive and so the leaders mistreated them because of that.
- God felt that Jesus' suffering wasn't enough to give the apostles all the righteousness they needed.
- the apostles wanted bring attention to themselves and how good they were.

None of this was the reason for the joy of the apostles. It was the unjustness of being beaten for simply proclaiming that their words and deeds were done in the name of Jesus. Here in the early days of the church it was important to establish that all things be done in the Name – *and only in the Name*.

We will never get to the point where we can just assume the name of Jesus is understood by everyone to be why we do what we do. We must, as the disciples did proclaim that Name. We proceed in all that we do only in the Name of Jesus.

When we gather in voter's meetings, or have picnics or do fundraisers or start and maintain a preschool, or pay our utility bills or take kids on outings or or or or... No matter what we do, we are to be proclaiming the name of Jesus as the reason for all that we do. And in that Name is where we find meaning and joy.

Are our bills paid? Good, but give thanks that in Jesus name we were provided with the resources to do that. Have we gathered to share a meal before a voters meeting or a having a picnic? Great, and again, we give thanks because in the name of Jesus we find our supply, our guidance and our true nourishment.

APPLICATION -

1. While the name of Jesus is something we know is our salvation, how often are we mindful of that Name in our daily doings and comings and goings? This week I want ask you for suggestions. How might we apply the Name in our daily lives so that we are made mindful to speak it out – to others and to ourselves?

PRAY – Give God the glory for the Name He has given by which we are saved. Thank Him that His provision in the Name of Jesus Christ is where we find our hope, faith and His grace made alive in us.