

## Group/Individual Study

Series - Hope that Moves: Bold Obedience

Passages: Acts 5:17-28

REFLECT on the message heard on Sunday, 9/23

1. Read Acts 5:17-28. How do you account for the dramatic change in these apostles who only a few months earlier had been huddled together "...with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders..." (John 20:19) The difference in their behavior and boldness is night and day. Where do you think it came from?
2. What is the "price tag" for the apostle's bold obedience in our passage? This couldn't have been a surprise to the apostles because they had already been called in before the Sanhedrin and told in no uncertain terms to stop preaching about Jesus. Try and get inside the apostles heads and hearts. What do you think was motivating them to such bold obedience even when "blowback" was almost a certainty?
3. It is often said that when we step out in obedience we tend to see more miracles and more movements of God's hand. How did that play out in this passage? How has it played out in the book of Acts so far? Have you ever observed this to be true?
4. Part of what makes bold obedience challenging, is that we don't know what may happen as a result. It requires a walk of deep faith in God that He will "have our backs". When has God called you to a type of obedience that required you to walk by faith?
  - a. How did it play out?
  - b. What seemed to "fuel" the faith that sustained you in that season?
5. It's human nature to try and avoid things that may turn out badly for us. Yet the apostles kept preaching in the temple again and again even knowing that the religious leaders would "bust" them for it. They said, "It's more important to obey God than to obey human beings". What do you think is the key to being more concerned about pleasing Jesus with our lives than about avoiding hardship? Avoiding other people's negative opinions?
6. The disciples in these passages seem to be filled with joy, even though they are experiencing persecution. What do you think is the relationship between obedience and joy? Why?