

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY
CHILDREN’S MEETING LESSON (Pre-K&K)

Lesson #87

DATE:

SUBJECT: Obeying Jesus’ Command—the Disciples Arrested for Preaching

SCRIPTURE: Acts 5:12-42

AIM: To let the children know that Jesus commands us to go and tell others about Him.

MEMORY VERSES: Matthew 28:19 “Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

REVIEW: Even though the Lord Jesus went up to heaven to His Father—at the same time He was still with His disciples. He was even inside them and would never ever leave them again as He promised. That is why Peter and John could make the lame man walk again as you heard last time. It wasn’t really them but the Lord Jesus inside them that healed the lame man.

CONTENT: When Peter depended on Jesus’ power to heal the lame man, many, many people believed in Jesus that day. Those people came to the temple each day to hear the disciples tell about Jesus and learn more about Him. The people also saw the disciples using Jesus’ power to do many wonderful things.

Other people, who had not yet believed in Jesus, also saw the miracles and heard the disciples tell about Jesus. They heard that Jesus died for their sins, rose from the dead and went back to heaven.

Some of those people believe in Jesus and the crowd of believers grew larger and larger. People brought their sick relatives to the disciples so that Jesus’ power could heal them. People even traveled many, many miles to come and hear the disciples. Jesus was “in charge”, and the disciples depended on Jesus’ power to help many, many people.

Some of the temple leaders did not want Jesus to be “in charge”. These leaders were enemies of Jesus and His disciples. These men had Jesus arrested and put to death. So they were angry that the disciples were still talking about Jesus. They were also jealous that all the people believed in Him.

The leaders had been so sure that Jesus would be forgotten after He died. But they were wrong. Many days had gone by since Jesus died, rose again, and went to heaven. But even so, many, many people believed in Him. These leaders wanted to stop the disciples, so they arrested them and put them in prison. The leaders thought that the disciples would be afraid and stop talking about Jesus, and the people would soon forget about Him.

But Jesus is “in charge” in heaven and on earth. And He was “in charge” of His disciples. So He sent an angel to open the prison doors and bring the disciples out of prison. The angel said, “Go and stand in the temple and tell the people about Jesus.”

So early the next morning, before the temple leaders arrived, the disciples went to the temple and started teaching again.

When the leaders arrived they didn’t know that the disciples were out of prison. The high priest called all the other leaders together. This group of men thought they were “in charge” and they could tell the disciples what to do.

The leaders sent soldiers to bring the disciples from the prison to talk to them. But the soldiers returned quickly and said, “These men are not in their prison cells! The doors are locked and the guards are standing outside the doors, but the men are not there!”

The leaders were very puzzled. How could the men possibly get out of prison? Then a man came running into the meeting. “The men whom you put in prison are out in the temple talking to the people again!”

The Leaders were very surprised. They sent the soldiers to get Peter and the disciples and bring them to the meeting. The disciples stood in front of the leaders. The high priest said, “We told you not to teach about this man! You are teaching about this man everywhere in the city. You are trying to blame us for this man’s death!”

Then Peter and the other disciples boldly answered him, “We choose to obey God; so we cannot obey men. You have killed Jesus, but God raised Him from the dead. Jesus the Savior is alive, and He is ‘in charge’. We have seen Him and must tell people about Him.”

The leaders were furious with the disciples. They wanted to kill them. But the disciples were not afraid of the leaders because Jesus is “in charge”. The leaders could not even keep the disciples in prison. Jesus had commanded them to teach everyone about Him, and promised that He would be with them.

Then one of the leaders, Gamaliel, asked that the disciples be taken out of the room. He said, “Be careful what you do to these men—you’d better let them go. If they are teaching about a man, it will soon be forgotten. But if they are obeying God, we cannot stop them, for we cannot fight God.”

The leaders listened to him and they decided not to kill the disciples. But they wanted to punish the disciples, so they told the soldiers to beat them. After the beating, the leaders commanded the disciples not to talk about Jesus, and they let them go.

The disciples praised God. Even though they were hurt all over from their beatings, they were happy to suffer for Jesus. Each day they came to the temple and told people about Jesus. They also went from house to house, teaching and telling people about Jesus the living Savior.

APPLICATION: Aren’t you glad that the disciples never stopped telling others about the Lord Jesus? If they did, we would never have heard about the Lord! Today we would probably not get beaten or arrested for telling others about the Lord. In this country we are free to tell the people about the Lord. In other countries sometimes people get arrested or beaten up for believing in the Lord Jesus and telling about Him. In our country maybe people would just laugh at us, make fun of us or maybe even tell us to “shut up”. We want to be brave just like the disciples and obey God instead of people. We want to do what God want us to instead of what people want us to do. We have to pray that the Lord Jesus will always be “in charge” of us!

CRAFT IDEA: Picture of prison with people in it. Have door on the prison so the people can be taken out. Have angel in front of the prison, etc.

SONGS: #74-Boys and Girls for Jesus; # 80-v.1 Jesus Bids Us Shine, #82- Join the Gospel Express, #86-Peter and John

Reference: Scripture Press: Primary Teaching Guide, March-May 1991; Unit 3; Obeying Jesus’ Command—pp67-68.