

When Being Wrong is Better Than Having to be Right Acts 5:12-42

Have you ever been wrong? How did you respond?

How hard is it for you to admit when you are wrong?

Proverbs 16:18 – Pride goes before destruction, & a haughty spirit before a fall.” **Haughty** – “arrogantly superior and disdainful.”

“When you are wrong & you think you are right, it makes you dangerous.”

In Acts 5, the High Priest, the elders, the Sanhedrin, they all thought they were right about Jesus, but they were **wrong**, & that made them dangerous!

In their pride, arrogance, jealousy and lust for power

- They rejected Jesus’ teachings w/out even considering their credibility!
- They rejected His claims about Himself simply b/c it challenged their **authority!**
- They had him arrested, beaten & crucified just because He was a threat!
- They tried to silence His followers by commanding them not to speak in His name, even though their message was one of forgiveness and love!
- They tried to ignore all the **miraculous signs** that took place, b/c any acknowledgement of their validity challenged their position!
- They had anyone/everyone arrested & beaten who spoke in His name!
- They wouldn’t even speak the name of Jesus out of disdain for Him!

All because they were unwilling to consider the possibility that they might be **wrong!** *Has this ever been true of us?*

Proverbs 14:12 – “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”

Proverbs 11:2 – “When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.”

It is better to be wrong and then respond rightly, then to pretend that you are always right! **Humility** always trumps arrogance & pride!

There are right reasons for being wrong:

- **Ignorance** is pervasive!
- God’s ways are beyond our ways!
- Our hearts are **deceptive!**
- The evil one is persuasive!

There are wrong reasons for being right:

- **Position** – When being right, is a right of a person’s position!
- Power – When being right is determined by who has the most power!
- **Popularity** – When being right is determined by popular opinion!
- Pride – When saving face is more important than actually being right!

The high priest, the elders, & the Sanhedrin went the route of using their position, power, popularity & pride to maintain that they were right about Jesus, and that meant danger for the apostles and the followers of Jesus!

But truth cannot be snuffed out! What is right will eventually prevail!

- The cross could not defeat Jesus!
- The grave could not hold Jesus!
- The laws of nature couldn’t prevent the miraculous in the name of Jesus
- Jail/prison could not silence the proclamation of the name of Jesus!
- The beatings could not stop the mission of Jesus!

No matter how badly the high priest, & the others, wanted to be right about Jesus, they were wrong, & there was nothing they could do to change that!

Only Gamaliel, a Pharisee in the council, had **the wisdom** to say “**stop!**”

He declared, **“If this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!”** He’s the only one who responded with honest humility!

*What do you believe about Jesus? What if you’re wrong? **What if you’re right?***

Would you rejoice, as the apostles did, to be counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name of Jesus, to suffer for what you know to be right & true?

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