

INTRO: Some people like to talk. Some people are expected to talk. I'm probably both. And then there are these apostles; beaten, jailed, ordered not to speak about Christ, yet they did so anyway. They had a compulsion to talk.

I. SET THE STAGE FOR THESE TALKERS

A. Previous chapters of the Book of the Acts of the Apostles

1. ch.1 - Jesus' ascension, two angels
2. ch.2 - Pentecost event; Peter's sermon; 2,000 added
3. ch. 3 - Peter and John at temple heal lame man; 5,00 now
4. ch.4 - temple police arrest them; gag order
5. ch. 5 - preached again; arrested, miraculously freed; went back at it!

B. Jesus' Apostles won't keep silent

1. 4:20 "We cannot but speak of the things which we have seen and...."
2. beaten, imprisoned; gag order
3. Acts 5:29 We ought to obey God rather than men

II. SO, WHO ARE THESE TALKERS?

A. New Testament Christians

1. Peter, before the Sanhedrin ('they will bring you before kings....')
2. Peter, because all could not - and need not- testify at once
3. yet all taught earlier that morning at the temple
4. as did the faithful apostles throughout the book of Acts

B. And so it is even today

1. right now, just one pastor on loan
2. after benediction, anybody/everybody in here
3. few beyond infancy cannot talk!

III. WHAT IS THERE TO TALK ABOUT?

A. Most don't find it difficult to find something to talk about

1. too much inanity; me to 2-yr-old WRT every thought
2. TV plots; weather; economy; old peoples' health
3. **my** opinions; too often as basis for faith
4. personal experiences in place of information about sin and grace

(continued)

B. Witness things Scripturally substantiated

1. sooner/later, must confess Jesus in order to be **His** witness
2. as the ten told Thomas; women told the Eleven
3. as the apostles told those temple attendees
4. as Peter boldly told the Sanhedrin
 - a. guilty of Jesus' blood (this man)
 - b. repentance and forgiveness a gift from God (v.31)
 - c. as is also the Holy Spirit a gift (v.32)

IV. BUT WHENCE THE COMPULSION TO TALK OF CHRIST?

A. They witnessed something significant

1. and what Peter saw is still significant and valid today
2. last Sunday **we** 'saw' Jesus rise from the dead, per multiple eyes
3. today **we** 'saw' his hands and feet and side, per Thomas
4. soon we'll see his Body/blood given/shed
5. the kicker! **for the forgiveness of sins** (now that's moving)

B. A significant issue compels conversation (Did you see...)

1. Pentecost; prison escape; angels' command
2. fulfilling Jesus' words at Ascension Acts 1:8 My witnesses
3. all of us empowered by Holy Spirit within us
4. and love and gratitude that overwhelms us

CONCLUSION: I heard you here earlier today say that you believe that Jesus suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. That He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. You heard Jesus say to you today, "I forgive you all your sins." Now that's something to talk about. We cannot but speak of the things which we have seen and heard. Amen.