

Big Idea:

Our courageous sharing of Jesus in hostility is an inevitable part of God's work in our world.

On our courageous sharing in hostility:

- a. this is the main theme of the passage: the word used 3 times (v.13, 29, 31), emphasized in the concluding line.
- b. This is something Jesus talked about a lot- following him inevitably would involve this. Luke 6:22-23, 21:12-16.
- c. This something verbal, specifically about Jesus and about his role in the world(v.12). Not just about our lives. The phrase: "share the gospel, and when necessary, use words" is a great statement. But please note that it is necessary to use words!
- d. This is something we all must do (v.31), and we all *can* do.
Peter's place: in front of the same people, Jesus was killed. He was probably scared. And, he was probably aware that at that time, it was when he denied Jesus.

Interns Share.

On His Work in our world

- Note how growth and God's presence are related to this (v.4, v.31). God's greatest work throughout history has always included difficulty. It's seen here in this book, it's seen throughout the annals of church history. For us here at Ethnos, in our work in UTC, Mexico, the world, the same will ring true. God's greatest work through us will necessarily involve all of us courageously proclaiming in face of hostility.

How do we get there?

1. *Pray the prayer for courage. (v.24-30)*

So much of our study has emphasized prayer already.
At church prayer, in CG.

2. *Embrace our missional call. (v.19-20)*

This passage begins the theme of the Jesus followers going out. A few weeks back, we looked at how people came to them and discovered God and Jesus, something we used the term "attractional" for. Now they begin to go out, what some people call missional or incarnational. We need to bring Jesus to people where they're at, to spend time there, to start GiGs there, to perhaps even start churches there, which leads to the second embrace.

3. *Embrace our missional places.*

These are the places we are naturally in. And some places none of us may be in, but some of us may be called to be there. I think of our call to the Indian Community in this area. There was a call that a handful of us embraced. And now there are some of you who are Indian and that is your natural sphere, your natural place. Embrace that place as a place to be on mission with Jesus.

But we cannot do this alone. Which leads to the final embrace:

4. *Embrace our missional community at Ethnos.(v.23)*

We need to learn how to do this together. This is our main mission, I think all of us would agree. I found it interesting talking with the interns about their experience that they realized so much of how we could really be effective is through relationships. That's completely true. No cool event here will bring people to Jesus, the primary vehicle is relationships. How do we help each other out with this? This is the role of Community Group: it's a place where support should be happening for each of our missional places. It's a place where we need to be praying for each other's witness, each other's places. It's a place where we should be actively hanging out in each other's places as well.

5. *Seek growth and training.*

The leaders are going through a summer theme of what is called discipleship, the idea of training each other in the ways of Jesus. Talk with them about it.