



Sermon Title: "Serve the Lord with Gladness"

Scripture: Acts 5:12-42

Pastor Stephen Schultze

Sunday, November 22, 2020

Introduction: *Psalm 100:1-3*

At the center of joyless service is a proud heart.
At the center of glad service is a **worshipful** heart. (*Psalm 2:11*)

What do we learn about the Apostles rejoicing? (*v. 41-42*)

1. Their gladness was stimulated by **opposition to their service.** (*v. 41a*)

- Your mouth **reveals** what your heart worships. (*Luke 6:45*)

2. Their gladness was shared in the **community of fellow servants.** (*v. 41b; Ephesians 5:20; Thessalonians 5:16-18*)

"When large numbers of people share their joy in common, the happiness of each is greater because each adds fuel to the other's flame." Augustine

3. Their gladness was rooted in their **identity in Christ.** (*v. 41c*)

- It is an honor to be **dishonored** for our association with the Suffering Savior. (*1 Peter 4:13-14; Philippians 1:29; Matthew 5:10-12*)

4. Their gladness fueled continual boldness and **faithfulness in service.** (*v. 42; Romans 12:1*)

Conclusion: Joyful service to our Savior is not only a beautiful expression of love to God, but also a powerful **witness** to the world! (*Philippians 2:14-15*)

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application:

- How is glad service to God an act of worship?
- In what ways did the Apostles experience opposition?
- What is surprising about the account of the angelic prison escape?
- Why is it important that we rejoice together with other believers?
- How does our identity in Christ yield the fruit of gladness when we face opposition?
- What does your mouth reveal about your heart when you face difficulty in service to Jesus?