

Stand Firm, Speak Life

Sermon Outline: Sunday, January 14th, 2024

Introduction

Reflecting on 2023

Big Idea — *God does big things through His gathered people!*

Text

Acts 5:12-20

I. God Cares About the Purity of the Church

- A. God's Power Through Human Agency
- B. The Response of Three Groups:
 - 1. Faithful Disciples (verse 12b)
 - 2. Consumers and Critics (verse 13)
 - 3. Lives Changed by Jesus! (verse 14)

Apply — *Come clean, come forward, come home!*

II. God Brings Healing Through His Faithful People

- A. God's "Overshadowing" Power
 - 1. Old Testament Use of "Shadow"
 - a) Shekinah Glory — Exodus 40:35
 - b) God's protection — Psalm 91:1, 4
 - 2. New Testament Use of "Shadow"
 - a) The Incarnation — Luke 1:35
 - b) The Transfiguration — Luke 9:28-35
- B. Healing Tends to Draw a Cloud
 - 1. In Jesus' Ministry — Luke 5:18-19; Luke 8:42b-44
 - 2. ...and they were all healed (verse 16b)

Apply — *What is the effect of my "shadow?"*

III. God Enables Continued Obedience in the Face of Opposition

- A. Jealousy in an Honor/Shame Culture
- B. Stand Firm & Speak Life (verse 20)
 - 1. The Path of Life Brings Joy — Acts 2:28
 - 2. The Source of Life is Jesus! — Acts 3:15
 - 3. “Knowing” Life — 1 John 5:11-13

Apply — *Where do I need to stand firm/speak life this week?*

IV. Conclusion