

1. Introduction

- a. Have been watching documentary on America
 - i. Obstacles the settlers and founders faced were insane
 - ii. Jamestown: people arriving w/ limited knowledge of work, starving, freezing to death
 - iii. Half the Mayflower passing away within the first 6 months
 - 1. Now 10% of the US can trace back to Mayflower
 - iv. Revolutionary War - rebels against superpower
 - v. Insurmountable odds - 1,000's of chances to turn back, give up
 - vi. But they persevered and pressed on
- b. The obstacles we face may never be like that, but we too face obstacles
 - i. Regardless of the goal...marriage, job, family, kids, etc
 - ii. Obstacles come and you need to decide what to do when they do
- c. We see the early church in Acts facing obstacles that seem insurmountable
 - i. As we analyze them, however, we can relate to their obstacles and even see manifestations of them in our own lives
 - ii. How do we need to approach obstacles that will stop us from living a life of purpose - the life God wants us to live?
 - iii. How do we overcome, how do we thrive when obstacles come?
- d. This is where we found ourselves in Acts today...

2. Acts 5:12-16 (Slide = Acts 5:14-15)

- a. Jesus gave his followers a mission and he equipped them to fulfill the mission
- b. You have a mission/purpose on your life - glorify God by making disciples
 - i. (Yes, we are going to beat this to death)
 - ii. Some of you are still trying to figure out what the meaning of life is...
 - iii. Luke 5 - follow me and I will make you fishers of men
- c. Maybe you aren't performing any miracles, but the mission is same
 - i. Invite people to learn/follow, share about Jesus, model him, represent him
- d. The world is separated from God and now our mission is to go share Jesus
 - i. God blesses us to fulfill this mission (resources, talents, etc)
- e. You have a mission and a purpose**

3. Acts 5:17-28 (Slide = Acts 5:18, 28)

- a. Big movement & big obstacles
- b. Avoid the lie that if it's from God, it's going to be easy
 - i. Bible calls followers overcomers. Obstacles are big, but God is bigger.
- c. Obstacles will come in many different forms:
 - i. Religion - Religious People/Systems
 - 1. Not all religion, but there is good religion and bad religion
 - 2. Examples:
 - a. No friends outside church
 - b. christian bubble (music, tv, movies, vacations...)
 - c. Think knowledge alone = growth
 - d. Idolizing theological minutia over the mission

- e. Begin to think going to church = your purpose
 - f. Begin to embrace the culture of church instead of the cross
 - ii. People
 - 1. We are fragile people and we want to be accepted, loved, etc
 - 2. Problem = Sometimes to follow God we might upset people
 - 3. Muslims overseas sometimes lose their family
 - a. maybe you can relate to that
 - 4. Maybe your family disapproves of you going to Revolve
 - a. family peace vs. God's call on your life
 - 5. People have asked me if they should leave their church
 - a. Is your church empowering you to fulfill the mission?
 - b. Have they abandoned the mission?
 - c. And if I ever stop, you should slap me upside the head
 - 6. Fear of friends, co-workers, spouse, peers, etc
 - a. What might people think...
 - b. If this was some club you are joining, that would be a valid fear, but this mission is about life and death
 - i. If you really loved your friends, you would risk the rejection for their sake
 - 7. Peer Pressure vs. Holiness/Ambassador of Jesus
 - iii. Yourself
 - 1. The apostles had already gone in head first, but look back at 5:13
 - a. Why? Fear? Can't compare to apostles?
 - 2. Maybe something in you is holding you back as an obstacle...
 - a. "I don't have anything to offer..."
 - 3. Maybe it is unforgiveness towards the church/christians
 - d. **Don't let anything stop you from living out God's mission for your life**
 - i. So how do you overcome?
4. Acts 5:29
 - a. You overcome obstacles by choosing to obey God
 - i. He has made it clear what we should do
 - ii. We don't need to deliberate over things that are clearly described in Bible
 - iii. Obedience isn't about duty, but about love
 - 1. "If you love me..."
 - 2. A heart that overflows with love for God will live a life in line w/ God's heart
 - 3. The closer you get to God, the more you will want what he wants
5. Acts 5:30-31
 - a. Why obey God anyway? Because He is God...(who he is)
 - i. "Should we obey you, who killed Jesus, or God?" (v.30)
 - ii. Exalted, leader, savior
 - b. Because of what he has done
 - i. Risen for restoration, forgiveness, purpose

- ii. We've seen his power and are witnesses to it!
 - c. How? By the power of the HS, received through a surrendered heart
 - i. God doesn't just call you and not equip you
 - ii. He gives you everything that you need
 - 1. Holy Spirit, Prayer, Word
 - 2. Need to be in God's Word to know what he is calling you to do
 - d. Overcome obstacles by choosing to obey God**
- 6. Acts 5:33-42 (summarize, don't show slides until summary gets there 5:38-39)
 - a. But don't mistake an absence of obstacles for "the right path"
 - i. broad path vs. narrow path
 - ii. wide door vs. narrow door
 - b. Unstoppable movement - 12 men turned world upside down
 - c. Obedience will bring more obstacles, but yield unstoppable results**
- 7. Conclusion
 - a. So...
 - i. You have a mission, purpose, meaning
 - ii. There will be obstacles that hold you back from that mission
 - iii. You can overcome them with God's power by choosing obedience despite logic
 - iv. And I, nor anyone else, can do it for you
 - 1. Spouse, parent, sibling, small group leader, child, institution...
 - b. I am here to Equip you:
 - i. Preaching, Underground, Groups, personal interaction, website, posts
 - c. I am here to Empower you through:
 - i. Groups, campaigns, and encouragement, baptism
 - d. Our job at Revolve to equip you and empower you to live out the mission, but we can't do it for you
 - i. Your choices are your choices - what are you choosing? Your obstacle
 - 1. "just enjoying myself right now" // "my agenda" // "my plans" // "my family" // "my schedule" // "pressure of my peers and friends/society"
 - ii. You have a mission, but its up to you to live it out
 - 1. to live an intentional life "on mission" to demonstrate and declare the Good News
 - e. This week look for opportunities to demonstrate and declare the Good News - look for opportunities to live on mission
 - i. This is a lifestyle, not an event
 - ii. When you see opportunities, be obedient to seize them
 - 1. Despite opposition, despite obstacles
 - f. Choose obedience despite every obstacle**