



In Acts 5:12-32 we read a report of how the Lord is at work in a local church planted in a city of vast lostness, and real threats, yet a steadfast commitment to proclaim Christ. Our verses cover a wide range of elements: days of church growth, a night in prison, a mini-sermon, and opposition. Through it all we find a thread of what might be described simply as, “Authentic Ministry.” Yet, in this update provided by Luke, we find patterns that are not only meant to be true of the ancient church, or global churches, but our church right here right now. We will think about this kind of Authentic Ministry with three signs to look for (three things to pray for): *Gospel Transformation*, *Gospel Persecution*, and *Gospel Proclamation*.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Matt warned us of how easy it is to drift into living the Christian life in our own strength of the flesh, rather than in humble dependence upon the Spirit of Christ in us and through us. How do we trust the Lord to do the work in the power of the Spirit instead of trying to do it in the power of the flesh?
2. The disciples were bold & calm in the face of opposition because they were convinced that they were accepted by God, so they were willing to be opposed by men. Practically, how can your belief that you’ve truly been accepted by God help you to stand firm in the face of opposition from friends, family, co-workers?
3. How do the three steps of gospel proclamation (fill the community with teaching, walk in obedience to Christ, commit to preaching Christ), apply to our own lives and context in North Texas?
4. What things keep you from sharing the gospel?

**PRAY:** Pray that we would trust in the gospel’s power, stand in the gospel’s truth, and spread the gospel message. Ask the Lord to do His work in and through us by the power of the Spirit and that our lives and our church would be marked by authentic ministry.