

Acts 5:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

Analysis

The angelic command - 'Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life' - contains crucial elements. 'Go' sends them back to danger. 'Stand' (Greek 'stathentes') implies bold visibility, not hiding. The temple location maximized publicity and risk. 'All the words' (Greek 'panta ta rhēmata') demanded complete message, no compromise. The phrase 'this life' (Greek 'tēs zōēs tautēs') encompasses eternal life through Christ - the gospel's comprehensive scope. This divine commission superseded human prohibition (Acts 4:18).

Historical Context

Temple courts, especially Solomon's porch and Court of Gentiles, housed thousands during festivals. Teaching there guaranteed maximum audience and official attention. The command's comprehensive nature ('all the words') forbade selective editing to avoid offense. Early church's conviction that gospel couldn't be moderated appears throughout Acts.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does the command to speak 'all the words' teach about gospel faithfulness without compromise?
2. How does returning immediately to the place of arrest demonstrate Spirit-empowered boldness?

Interlinear Text

Πορεύεσθε	καὶ	σταθέντες	λαλεῖτε	ἐν	τῷ	ἱερῷ	τῷ
Go	and	stand	speak	in	G3588	the temple	G3588
G4198	G2532	G2476	G2980	G1722		G2411	
λαῷ	πάντα	τὰ	ῥήματα	τῆς	ζωῆς	ταύτης	
to the people	all	G3588	the words	G3588	life	G3778	
G2992	G3956		G4487		G2222		

Additional Cross-References

John 6:63 (Word): It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

John 6:68 (Word): Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

Matthew 21:23 (Temple): And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?

Acts 11:14 (Word): Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.

John 17:3 (Parallel theme): And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

John 18:20 (Temple): Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing.

Isaiah 58:1 (Parallel theme): Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

Jeremiah 36:10 (Word): Then read Baruch in the book the words of Jeremiah in the house of the LORD, in the chamber of Gemariah the son of Shaphan the scribe, in the higher court, at the entry of the new gate of the LORD'S house, in the ears of all the people.

Jeremiah 7:2 (Word): Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all ye of Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the LORD.

Jeremiah 26:2 (Word): Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD'S house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD'S house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word: