

ACTS

Dead Ends

READ: Acts 5:12-42

I. The Reality of Dead Ends (Acts 5:16, 18)

- What "dead ends" do we see in this passage (vv. 16, 18)?
- Describe a time in your life when you felt like you were at a dead end.
- Why is it so important that we acknowledge the existence of dead ends?

II. The Resurrection of Dead Ends (Acts 5:19-20, 30-32; Deut. 21:22-23; Gal. 3:13; 1 Cor. 15:19)

- In Acts 5, where do we see God bringing life to dead ends?
- Read Deut. 21:22-23 and Gal. 3:13. Why would the cross have seemed like the ultimate dead end?
- How does the resurrection bring hope to our dead ends?
- How would believing in the power of the resurrection change the dead ends you are currently facing?

III. The Rejoicing of Dead Ends (Acts 5:41-42; Rom. 5:2-5)

- Describe how the apostles reacted to suffering. What reason is given for their response (v. 41)?
- Read Rom. 5:2-5, 1 Pet. 6-7; James 1:2-4. In addition to the reason given in Acts 5, what other reasons might Christians rejoice in suffering?

Take-aways:

- List one take-away you have from this week's sermon.
- What is one thing you will do differently this week in light of the message?

"If you belong to Jesus, your worst-case scenario is everlasting life."

Scott Sauls

Going Deeper

- Page through the book of Acts. What other "dead ends" do you see?
- How do the final words of Acts (28:31) point to the resurrection of dead ends?
- Why don't we see miracles today like the ones described in Acts 5?