

Scripture:- Acts 5: 29-39.

Text:- Acts 5: 38-39.

Introduction:- Fighting against God. These are thrilling words. They startled men of long ago. The men so startled were men amply justified. Peter and John were heretics who had failed to meet the demands of the court which had arrested them some days ago. They were told to quit preaching. They had not obeyed but had preached until all Jerusalem was filled with their teaching.

Then Gamaliel who was a doctor, doubtless the man at whose feet Paul had received his instruction, came forward with his word of caution. (Give G. word of caution.)

I. Fighting God.

What did he mean by fighting God. To fight God is to resist the will of God and come to be at war with God. God has a will for the world. God has a will for nations. God has a will for every individual. "I beseech you therefore etc"

His was a complete and perfect life. It was a life lived in the will of God. This has not been your record. It has not been mine. With every downward pull there has also been an upward pull. God said, ... the serpent said.

II. What Are Some of the Consequences of Fighting God.

1. To fight God is to fight one's self. All who are at war are torn by inward conflict. Life is to be lived in harmony with the will of God. It work no other way.
2. We lose our inward peace. Inward peace is our right as children of God. "Peace I leave with you, my peace give I unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled. neither let it be afraid".
3. We lose our joy. When we are right with God, right with ourselves, when we have inward peace. "The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and

peace and joy in the Holy Spirit".

"Joy is a fruit that will not grow
In nature's barren soil;
All we can boast, till Christ we know,
Is vanity and toil".

4. When we fight God we are ready to fight others. One of the sharpest tests of religion is, Does it make it easy to live with? Slam a door, or anything rather loud, and see what happens. Balaam was one who went against God. When his donkey became unmanageable he beat it over the head with his staff and wished for a sword that he might have killed her. Why? His rage against his donkey was born of his conflict with himself.

Then the man who is at war is ripe for war against his fellows. Our world is filled with dead nations, empires and civilizations. Why? Take Egypt. Take Rome. Take Greece.

Our own day is a day of conflict. Why so much strife? Between groups. Between nations. They are outside the will of God. There is fundamentally but one supreme need, and that is a right attitude toward the will of God.

CONCLUSION:- Gamaliel was not wise. He seemed to believe that all that was needed was to refrain from Peter and Paul and let them alone. Stay on God's side and do nothing. That is not the way to avoid the tragedy of fighting against God. To avoid fighting against God, we must give ourselves to aggressively fight on God's side that we can avoid fighting against him.