

EXPOSITORY SERMON SERIES ON THE BOOK OF ACTS, #45
Section Three, “The Foreign Emphasis,” Part One
“Paul is a Pioneer for the Continuation of the Church,” #14
“Paul Expands the Church- The 2nd Missionary Journey,” Part One
“The Expanding Church Experiences Fruitful Progress,” #5
“Another Pressure is Applied,” 16:35-40

INTRODUCTION:

SneakPreview: Christians can “stand up for their rights” in a gracious and God-honoring way.

PROPOSITION: In this passage we see four interactions between the magistrates and the missionaries that teach us principles on how to handle ourselves in conflict with the world.

I. THE MAGISTRATES DESIRE THE EASY WAY. Vss. 35, 36.

- A. The **Strategy** for the Easy Way is Prompted. Vs. 35.
- B. The **Suggestion** for the Easy Way is Presented. Vs. 36.

LifePoint One: While the world is quick to publish the fallacies of the church, it is just as quick to cover up when the church is obviously right!

II. THE MISSIONARIES DEMAND THE ETHICAL WAY. Vs. 37.

- A. Note Paul’s **Reaction** to the Proposal. Vs. 37a.
- B. Note Paul’s **Refusal** to be Patronized. Vs. 37b.

LifePoint Two: While Christians are to “turn the other cheek,” we are not to be passive when our integrity is at stake, and when our God-given rights have been violated.

III. THE MAGISTRATES DISSUADE THE EXPEDIENT WAY. Vss. 38, 39.

- A. Consider the **Dilemma** of the Magistrates. Vs. 38.
- B. Consider the **Desperation** of the Magistrates. Vs. 39.

LifePoint Three: Any discerning person knows that nothing influences the world more than “authentic” Christianity.

IV. THE MISSIONARIES DECIDE THE ENCOURAGING WAY. Vs. 40.

- A. The Missionaries **Congregated** with the Church. Vs. 40a.
- B. The Missionaries **Comforted** the Christians. Vs. 40b.
- C. The Missionaries **Completed** Their Commission. Vs. 40c.

LifePoint Four: When confronted wrongfully by the world, the Church isn’t to “prove we are right,” but we are to demonstrate Christ’s love.

APPLICATION:

PowerPoint: God will deliver His faithful servants from even the most formidable circumstances. If we keep the faith, He will be faithful.