



98. Are We a Threat?

“After calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them. So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” Acts 5:40-42

The First Century Church kept on proclaiming the Gospel. And many people came to faith in Jesus. The High Priest and his associates were filled with jealousy. Therefore, they put the Apostles in prison. But an angel released them and by daybreak the Apostles were again proclaiming the Gospel. They were arrest-

ed again and brought before the High Priest and Council. Again they were ordered not to speak in the name of Jesus. They were flogged and then released. The Apostles rejoiced *“that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.”* And they kept on proclaiming the Gospel.

Opposition, repeated arrests, and even being whipped did not silence the Apostles. What silences us?

Should it? And did you notice their reaction to being arrested and whipped? They rejoiced at being

considered worthy to suffer shame for the name of

Jesus. Would we rejoice if that happened to us? We

should! Would we have been arrested and flogged if

we were living as we live today ... but living in

Jerusalem during the time described in Acts 5? Or

would we have gone unnoticed by the authorities? Do

the enemies of Jesus see us as dangerous? Are we a

threat to their cause? Be dangerous ... be a threat to

the enemies of Jesus.