

Step 12: Free UP

(Living a life of irresistible influence)

(SERIES: 12 Steps Up; 12 of 12)

by Dr. David Foster

"But a Pharisee named **Gamaliel**, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. Then he addressed them: "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men.

Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered.

Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! **For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail.** But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; *you will only find yourselves fighting against God.*" (Acts 5:34-39)

No one wants my unsolicited opinion...

"A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions." (Prov 18:2)

About their **moral standing**.

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:17)

About the **cause of their calamity**.

"Shouldn't you believe that God will care for those who are good? Stop and think! Have you ever known a truly good and innocent person who was punished?" (Job 4)

About their **standing with God**.

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?" (Mat 7:1-4)

How to help set someone free:

First, you **walk the talk**.

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? (Luke 6:46)

Second, you **tell your story**.

"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus." (1Ti 1:12)

Third, you **accept responsibility**.

"Then the LORD said to Cain, 'Where is your brother Abel?' 'I don't know,' he replied. 'Am I my brother's keeper?'"(Gen 4:9)

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, **let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.**" (Mat 5:14)

Always extend **hope**.

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect," (1 Pet 3:15)