

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

I THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN JERUSALEM Acts 1-7

LESSON 5 - Persecution of the Apostles - Acts 5:12 - 42

KEY VERSE

Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said: 'We ought to obey God rather than men'.
(Acts 5:29)

PONDER¹

READ Acts 5:12-42.

WRITE the *word, phrase, or verse* that spoke to you the most. Explain. _____

POWER IN THE CHURCH

READ Acts 5:12-16.

1. Being in one accord,² what was done by the hands of the Apostles as they were empowered by the Holy Spirit (vv. 12, 13)?

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What was the reaction of the crowd? _____

2. A multitude of believers were added to the Lord because the Holy Spirit was working through the Apostles revealing truth and healing the sick. How did the believers respond to the Spirit-filled Acts of the Apostles (vv. 14-16)?

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¹ PONDER: think about and consider carefully God's spiritual truths as revealed in the Word of God.

² one accord: one purpose, one mind in unity for the salvation of souls.

³ Solomon's Porch: long covered colonnade in the Temple of Solomon's court on the East side known as the Sheep Gate.

⁴ unclean spirits: impure, lewd, foul, demonic; demons; fallen angels who joined the kingdom of Satan in rebellion against God (see Jude 4:6, Revelation 12:4).

THE APOSTLES IMPRISONED

READ Acts 5:17-26.

1. Who rose up against the Apostles with indignation⁵ (vv. 17, 18)? _____⁶

What did they do to the Apostles? _____

2. What was the angel of the Lord ⁷ sent to do and say to the Apostles (vv. 19, 20)? _____

3. How did the Apostles respond (v. 21)? _____

While the Apostles were teaching God's Word in the temple, what did the high priest do? _____

4. What did the officers discover (vv. 22, 23)? _____

5. What miraculous event was brought to the religious leaders' attention (vv. 24, 25)? _____

6. Why did the religious leaders capture the Apostles without violence (v. 26)? _____

⁵ indignation - Greek *zelos*: from the word heat, jealousy, emulation, envy.

⁶ Sadducees: materialistic party among the Jews denying the resurrection and existence of angels and spirits; they favored the written Law of Moses.

⁷ angel of the Lord - Greek *aggelos*: to bring tidings: heavenly messenger.

⁸ council - Greek *gerosia*: the Sanhedrin; the full council of the elders of Israel.

PERSONAL

The Apostles were imprisoned for doing the Lord’s work. Multitudes believed in God through the empowering of the Holy Spirit despite the fierce opposition from the religious leaders. What lessons of obedience can you learn from the Apostles?

PETER’S ADDRESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Read Acts 5:27-29.

1. The Apostles were brought before the Sanhedrin. What did the high priest accuse them of (vv. 27, 28)?

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PERSONAL

What could the ungodly accuse you of today? _____

2. In the unity of the Holy Spirit, how did the Apostles answer these accusations (v. 29)? _____

PERSONAL

How are you yielding¹⁰ to the Holy Spirit that you might work in unity with those who do the work of the Lord?

⁹ your doctrine: the Apostles belief and teachings concerning Jesus.

¹⁰ yielding: letting the Person of the Holy Spirit have the right-of-way; Spirit-controlled.

What stands in the way of you yielding to the Holy Spirit? _____

Sometimes we have a tendency to please others in order to avoid conflict, how does Peter's proclamation in verse 29 challenge you?

How have you been an example of verse 29 to your husband, children, family members and friends?

PETER'S SERMON

READ Acts 5:30-42.

1. In his sermon, who did Peter accuse of murdering Jesus by hanging Him on a tree (v. 30)? _____

11 12

2. How did God exalt the crucified Christ (v. 31)? _____

3. Who were the witnesses of these facts (v. 32)? _____

To whom is the Holy Spirit given to? _____

4. What affect did the revealed truth about Jesus have on the council (v. 33)? _____

5. Who was Gamaliel¹³ (v. 34)? _____

¹¹ Prince - Greek *archegos*: Chief Leader, Author, Captain.

¹² Savior - Greek *soter*: Deliverer, God, Christ.

¹³ Gamaliel: doctor in the Law of God. The Apostle Paul's teacher in the law before his conversion.

6. What was Gamaliel's advice to the Sanhedrin (vv. 34b, 35, 38a)? _____

7. Who was Theudas (v. 36)? _____

8. Who was Judas of Galilee (v. 37)? _____

9. What would happen if the Apostles work is of men (vv. 38b, 39)? _____

... but if it is of God? _____

10. How did the religious leaders respond to Gamaliel's advice (v. 40)? _____

11. How did the Apostles respond to the beating and to the command they received (v. 41)? _____

LOOK DEEPER

What does the Word of God teach concerning suffering for Christ's sake?

Matthew 5:11, 12 _____

Philippians 1:29 _____

II Timothy 3:10-12 _____

James 5:13, 14 _____

I Peter 2:21-24 _____

PERSONAL

Have you ever endured physical or emotional suffering for doing the work of the Lord? Explain.

Rejoice that you are counted worthy to suffer shame for His Name's sake!

12. DESCRIBE what the Apostles were compelled by the Holy Spirit to continue to do (v. 42). _____

PERSONAL

Based on what the Apostles were commissioned by the Holy Spirit to continue to do in verse 42, what implications should this have for believers today?

WRITE out the KEY VERSE. _____

*And they continued steadfastly
in the Apostles Doctrine and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
Acts 2:42*

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Somebody Loves You Publishing, 22324 Golden Springs Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765
(909) 396-1884 FAX: (909) 396-0553 Email: slymediagroup@somebodylovesyou.com

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