

Maranatha Fellowship CRC
Farmington, NM 87401

April 28, 2024, 10:00 AM

Message Series: Week 2 – The Acts of the Apostles

Message: The Apostles Persecuted

Scriptures: Acts 5:12-42

A Brief Preview:

Luke picks up the Book of Acts, where he left off in his Gospel. Acts records the initial fulfillment of the Great Commission of Mathew 28:19-20 as it traces the beginning and growth of the New Testament church. The Book of Acts perfectly realized Christ's last words before His ascension. Luke outlines the contents concisely and effectively, Acts 1:8: "You shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem [Chapters 1-7], and in all Judea and Samaria [8-12], and to the end of the earth [13-28]." Thus, Acts traces the rapid expansion of the Gospel, beginning in Jerusalem and spreading throughout the Roman Empire.

Chapter 5:12-42 describes the later resistance to evangelism in the life of the early infant church and how apostles were persecuted. The triumph of the Gospel amid adversity began in chapter 4, which continues on. Each time God intervened, the Gospel kept moving forward. When the authorities threatened the gospel's progress for the first time, God intervened by shaking the place where the disciples were and giving them a special anointing with his Spirit (4:31). This emboldened them to speak the word of God boldly. Later, the purity of the church was threatened from within. At that time, God intervened through the prophetic insight of Peter, which resulted in judgment (5:1-11). Immediately after this, an effective miraculous and evangelistic ministry occurred (5:12-16). The troubles came again from the authorities; God intervened again. At this time, God used a Jewish authority named Gamaliel (5:17-41). The passage mentions that public and personal evangelism went on incessantly (5:42).

Introduction

- A. The Apostle Persecuted
- B. **Illus.** Strengthened in Attack

- II. Presenting the Unpleasant Aspect of Faith (5:1-11)
 - A. Identifying the needs
 - B. Practical implications

- III. Continuing Power (5:12-16)
 - A. The apostles performed many signs and wonders
 - B. Practical implications

- IV. The Apostles Arrested, Tried, and Beaten (5:17-40), and After Beaten (5:41-42)
 - A. The ministry done by the apostles was spectacular
 - B. The beating/flogging resulted in an increase in the evangelistic activity

- V. Obeying God Rather Than Human Beings (v. 29, v. 32)
 - A. Peter and other apostles replied to the Sanhedrin
 - B. Holy Spirit is given to those who obey Him

- VI. Incessant Evangelism
 - A. They didn't give a defense at the trial but kept witnessing (5:30-32)
 - B. The apostles' response
 - C. The main point: Holy Spirit's witness is made through the believers

- VII. Miraculous Deliverances (5:20) and Gamaliel's Wisdom (v. 34-40)
Practical Implications: Sometimes, no miraculous deliverance (v. 19-20) – Lesson Learned

- VIII. Conclusion: Implications
 - A. Evangelistic Passion – Keep it Going

- B. Situations of Persecution – Opportunities to share the Gospel
- C. Having the right attitude

Questions and Answers (Refer to Acts 4:1-42, NIV for answers)

1. A man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife’s full knowledge, he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostle’s feet (5:1-2). They lied to God. Both of them died. A great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events (v.11) A. True B. False
2. The apostles performed many ____ among the people (v.12). Crowds gather from the time around _____ bringing their sick, and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were _____ (v.16). A. Signs and Wonders B. Jerusalem C. Healed D. All of the above E. None of the above
3. Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with _____ (v. 17). A. Jealousy B. Happiness t C. Sadness D. None are correct. E. Only A is correct
4. They arrested the apostles and put them in _____ (v. 18). But during the night _____ opened the doors of the jail and brought them out (v. 19). A. Public jail B. An angel of the Lord. C. Both D. None
5. The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest (5:27). **Mark:** True (T) or False, F.
 - a. “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood” (v. 28). T F
 - b. Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! Then know this, you and all people of Israel (v. 29): T F
 - c. The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. (v. 30) T F
 - d. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. (v. 31) T F
 - e. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him”(v. 32). T F
 - f. When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death (v. 33). T F
6. What did Gamaliel, a member of the Sanhedrin say? A. 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 (v. 34). B. Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men (v. 35). C. 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 (v. 36). D. 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 (v. 37). E. 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 (v. 38). F. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God” (v. 39) G. All
7. What was the conclusion of the Trial? A. Gamaliel’s speech persuaded the Sanhedrin. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus and let them go (v. 40). B. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name (v. 41). C. Day after day in the temple, in the temple courts, and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is Messiah D. All of the above E. None of the above
8. **Take home lesson** - What did we learn about apostles being persecuted?
 - a. Be honest, do not lie to God. There are consequences for committing sins b. God both forgives and enables us to repent; Christ gives the grace to repent; it’s a gift of God c. It’s important to hear the Word of God because it brings conviction of sins d. It’s essential to witness the facts of the Gospel (5:29-32), e. Meet the people at the point of their need; minister to the people in the power of the Holy Spirit. f. Embodying holiness helps people know and learn that God hates sin g. Be confident over the Gospel regarding what we have heard and seen – all the facts about the life, death, resurrection, ascension, and teaching of Christ (3:14-15, and 4:20). h. No worries about what to say whenever we are arrested and brought to trial; just say whatever is given to us at that time, for it is not us speaking, but the Holy Spirit (Mark 13:11) i. Keep the main thing the main thing **5:29-33!** k. I am afraid I disagree; nothing applies to me. l. all applies to me except k. Thanks be to God! Praise the Lord JESUS!!!