

Jubilee Church

Acts 5v17-42

Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out.



"Go, stand in the temple courts and tell the people the full message of this new life."

At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.

When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles. But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported:

"We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside."



On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were puzzled, wondering what would come of this.

Then someone came and said:



"Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people."

At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

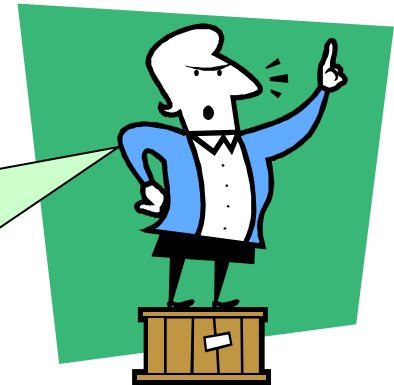
Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest.



"We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name. Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood."

Peter and the other apostles replied:

"We must obey God rather than men! The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead—whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree."



“God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Saviour that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”



When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.

But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honoured 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:

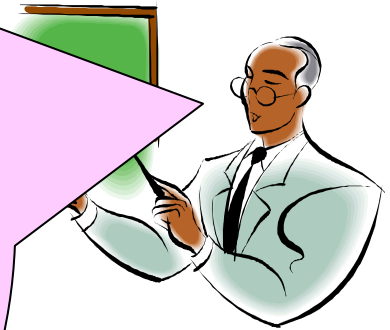
"Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men.

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.”



His speech persuaded them.

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.

The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

Acts 5v17-42

1) The Purposes of God

❖ **God does things that don't seem to make sense!**

- Why did He send the angel?
- Why did He allow the apostles to be flogged?



“Godworks in you to will and to act according to his good purpose”

Philippians 2v13

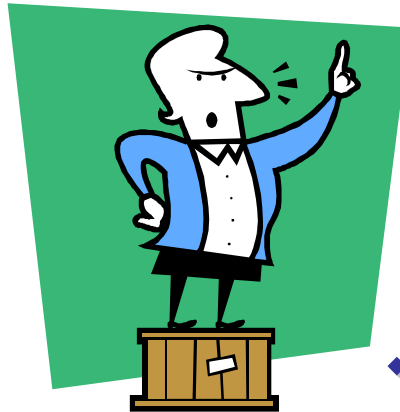
❖ **His ways are above ways**

- Our call is to follow Him, whatever this means
- He loves you!

2) The Preaching of the Gospel

❖ **Commissioned**

- “*Go and make disciples...*”



❖ **Courageously**

- Boldness from the Holy Spirit
- But we do need to open our mouths!

❖ **Continually**

- The apostles preach the gospel at every opportunity
- They never stopped (v42)
- They filled Jerusalem with their teaching (v28)

❖ **Completely**

- “*..the full message of this new life..*”
- Jesus - there is no other name by which men may be saved!

3) The Persecution of God's people

❖ The gospel provokes a reaction!

- The apostles are imprisoned, questioned, threatened and flogged
- Just like Jesus said (John 15v18-21)
- We will face opposition and persecution

❖ Our response

- Don't fear
- Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you (Matt 5v44)
- If it happens – rejoice! (Matt 5v11-12)

