

Acts 5: 17 - 42

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1. Why were the religious leaders opposed to the apostles? (5:17)

Acts 5: 17

17 But the high priest rose up, along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy.

They were filled with jealousy.

1. The high priest and Sadducees were jealous, angry and envious of the preaching of Jesus.

2. The Apostles were arrested and jailed by the authorities. The persecutors thought that this would be enough to restrain, frighten, and shame them in not proclaiming the Gospel message.

Jn. 15: 20

20 “Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

2 Tim. 3: 12

12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

2. What happened when the Christians were put in jail? (5:18-19)

Acts 5: 18-19

18 They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail.

19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said,

“During the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out.”

3. What did the angel tell the apostles to do? (5:20)

Acts 5: 20

20 “Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life.”

“Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life.”

God's purpose for Peter and the Apostles:

1. **“Go”**: Go now, immediately.
2. **“Stand”**: Take your stand; stand without reservation or hesitation.
3. **“Speak”**: Proclaim, preach, teach—courageously, boldly, without fear.
4. **“All the words of this life”**: The whole gospel of salvation; the glorious message of the death and resurrection of Christ; not watering down or changing anything; not holding back; not trying to soften the message to make it more acceptable. 9

4. What did the elders of Israel discover after they met together? (5:21-24)

Acts 5: 21-24

21 Upon hearing *this*, they entered into the temple about daybreak and *began* to teach. Now when the high priest and his associates came, they called the Council together, even all the Senate of the sons of Israel, and sent *orders* to the prison house for them to be brought.

22 But the officers who came did not find them in the prison; and they returned and reported back,

23 saying, **“We found the prison house locked quite securely and the guards standing at the doors; but when we had opened up, we found no one inside.”**

24 Now when the captain of the temple *guard* and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them as to what would come of this.

“We found the prison house locked quite securely and the guards standing at the doors; but when we had opened up, we found no one inside.”

Jn. 15: 10

10 “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love

2 Tim. 1: 7-8

7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,

1. The Council convened to try the disciples.
2. The guards found them missing: they had been delivered from persecution.
3. The Council doubted and were perplexed. They could not understand how the disciples could be delivered “out of their hand.” They were apprehensive about the growth of the *new movement*.
4. In the present situation, the authorities probably thought some of the guards had either willfully released the prisoners or else been careless while on duty.

5. How were the apostles brought before the Sanhedrin? (5:25-27)

Acts 5: 25-27

25 But someone came and reported to them, “The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!”

26 Then the captain went along with the officers and *proceeded* to bring them *back* without violence (for they were afraid of the people, that they might be stoned).

27 When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them,

“the captain went along with the officers and *proceeded* to bring them *back* without violence (for they were afraid of the people, that they might be stoned).”

vs. **25** - The Council made an unbelievable discovery.

1. The Apostles had not fled for their lives like other escaped convicts would have.
2. They were “standing in the temple, and teaching the people.”
3. The Council had never seen a conviction and hope like that of the Apostles.
4. The conviction and hope the Apostles shared was:
 - a. That the resurrection of Jesus Christ had actually happened.
 - b. That men must believe the resurrection of Jesus Christ and repent to know God and to be saved.
 - c. That they must proclaim the gospel no matter the persecution.

6. Why did the high priest avoid mentioning the name of Jesus? (5:28)

Acts 5: 28

28 saying, “We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and **intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.**”

They feared that the Apostles would tell the people that the high priest was responsible for the death of Jesus.

Three charges were brought against the disciples.

1. They had broken the specific law that the name and resurrection of Jesus Christ was not to be preached.
2. They were thought to have taught a false doctrine, a doctrine that misled and stirred up people.
3. They were thought to have threatened insurrection, to have falsely accused the government of injustice and murder. The leaders feared they would lose control of the people, their support and loyalty. They knew full well that their position and livelihood were at stake.

7. What reason did the apostles give for their disobedience? (5:29)

Acts 5: 29

29 But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.”

“We must obey God rather than men”

1. The saved are those who obey God.

a. Salvation is surrendering in obedience to the authority of Jesus Christ as Lord.

2. The Holy Spirit is given to every saved person at salvation.

8. What made the Jewish elders furious? (5:29-32)

Acts 5: 29-32

29 But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.

30 “The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, **whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross.**”

31 “He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

32 “And we are witnesses of these things; and so *is* the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

Peter and the Apostles accused the Council of putting Jesus to death by hanging Him on the cross.

The Apostles showed their loyalty to God through their obedience to God. He has raised up and exalted Christ.

God had three purposes for raising Christ:

1. God exalted Jesus to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior.
2. To offer repentance to Israel.
3. To offer Israel forgiveness of sins.

9. What was the Sanhedrin's response to Peter? (5:33)

Acts 5: 33

33 But when they heard this, they were cut to the quick and intended to kill them.

"They were cut to the quick and intended to kill them."

The religious leaders were:

1. “cut to the quick” - their hearts were sawn in two, into two parts, through and through. The idea is they were cut to the heart—not with conviction but with anger, wrath, rage, and action against the Apostles.

2. “took counsel” - they were of one mind, intending to kill the Apostles.

10. How did Gamaliel intervene? (5:34-39)

Acts 5: 34-39

34 But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the Law, respected by all the people, stood up in the Council and gave orders to put the men outside for a short time.

35 And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you propose to do with these men.

36 “For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a group of about four hundred men joined up with him. But he was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing.

37 “After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census and drew away *some* people after him; he too perished, and all those who followed him were scattered.

38 “So in the present case, I say to you, stay away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or action is of men, it will be overthrown;

39 but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God.”

Gamaliel was rational, controlled, and governed by higher purposes than self-interest.

Gamaliel shares the following:

1. Gamaliel cites two examples, with the Council, of man's quest for **power that failed.**

a. **vs. 36** "For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a group of about four hundred men joined up with him. But he was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing."

b. **vs. 37** "After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census and drew away *some* people after him; he too perished, and all those who followed him were scattered."

2. v. **38** If they are not of God, they will soon disappear from the scene. They will be frustrated and exposed by God Himself.

3. v. **39** If they are of God, all the forces of the world cannot overthrow them.

11. How did the elders deal with the apostles? (5:40)

Acts 5: 40

40 They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them.

1. They flogged them.
2. They ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus.
3. They released them.

12. What did the apostles do after they left the Sanhedrin? (5:41-42)

Acts 5: 41-42

41 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.

42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

12. What did the apostles do after they left the Sanhedrin? (5:41-42)

1. The Apostles were rejoicing and joyous that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for the name of Jesus.
2. God stirred within their hearts a sense of courage and purpose.
3. Every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus who is God's Son. He died on the cross and provided salvation for all men.