

Series "God At Work" Book Of Acts
"God's Witness In Jerusalem"
Acts 5:12-42
Study-11

Acts 1:8 you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem,

Book of Acts, which we are calling "**God At Work.**" We are mindful of the fact that this **Historical account, written by Luke, contains both "Descriptive and Prescriptive" Material.**

Thought Of The Passage: "The Early Church Rejoiced At Being Witnesses And Being Considered Worthy To Suffer Shame For His Name."

- 1. Verses 12-16 Restoration And Blessing**
- 2. Verses 17-42 Witness And Persecution**

1. Verses 12-16 Restoration And Blessing:

Acts 5:12 At the hands of the apostles Acts 5:1-11 Testing within, through an attack from Satan (Purity): Ananias, with his wife Sapphira. A couple that was influenced by Satan in an attempt to compromise and bring corruption to the Church from within.

The Church went through a difficult experience with the death of two members! (Struck Dead) Acts 5:11 great fear came upon the whole church, literally "*Great fear seized the whole Church*" and upon all who heard of these things.

God's Restoration And Blessing upon the Church! (**Three Blessings**)

- 1. Blessing of - Signs and Wonders: at the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; This authenticated the message of the Apostles. The Signs and Wonders Were Answered Prayer, Acts 4:29-30 (Prayed for Signs And Wonders in Jesus)**

Notice that the Result of the Purging of Sin Produced New Power in the Church.

- 2. Blessing of - Oneness of The Believers: they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico. "*Solomon's Porch*" "*Solomon's Colonnade*"**

Acts 5:13 But none of the rest (Outsiders) **dared to associate with them** These were possibly the religious leaders who were keeping their distance

Judgment of sin on Ananias and his wife Sapphira, Acts 5:11

The Power of signs and wonders authenticated the message; Oneness of the Believers Acts 5:12

the people (General Populace) **held them in high esteem.**
Respect, honor.

3. **Blessing of - Church Growth: Acts 5:14 multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number, (Purpose of the Miraculous was Salvation of Souls)** authenticated the message.

Acts 5:15 Even the shadow might fall on them. It does not say that it healed them, but it could have.

Acts 5:16 Gospel Spreading Outside of Jerusalem: people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together,

sick or afflicted with unclean spirits; sickness and unclean spirits are not the same thing.

and they were all being healed. This has not been duplicated.
First Century Wonders were Evidential (Proof), Today Providential (Possible).

2. Verses 17-42 Witness And Persecution:

Acts 5:17 But the high priest rose up, Caiaphas the High Priest. Caiaphas had bought his position for 18 years. Corrupt, along with Father in-law Annas.

along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees), liberal group that did not believe in the resurrection, miracles, the coming Messiah.

and they were filled with jealousy; Sadducees were the smallest of the religious sects but were in control of the temple, oversight over the worship.

The things being done were all good, the benefits of healing and being set free from Jesus! Proverbs 27:4

Acts 5:18 They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail. No longer a holding cell or confined to house arrest. (All 12 apostles?)

Acts 5:19 If the angel had not rescued them, they probably would have been executed.

God Uses Supernatural Means: an angel of the Lord - angels, Acts 1:10

Angels – ministering spirits. God uses angels. Hebrews 1:14; 13:2

Acts 5:20 "Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple - the command to preach the Gospel Acts 1:8, "The Great Commission," Matthew 28:18-20.

the whole message of this Life." Death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Acts 5:21 began to teach. bold in their style of ministry. Most would run.

Acts 5:22-23 the guards were guarding an empty prison cell.

Acts 5:24-25 I wish I could have seen their faces.

Acts 5:26 The ones that needed the guards were the officers.

Note who the enemy was, The Religious, common people were open. Often the greatest enemies are the religious.

Acts 5:27-28

Charge #1 "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, (Disobeyed) Acts 4:18

and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching - What a great testimony of this new church for getting the message out.

Charge #2 and intend to bring this man's (Contempt) **blood upon us." This is called consequences of sin. **Matthew 27:24-25****

Acts 5:29 "We must obey God rather than men. Christians are to obey the laws, but when a law goes against what God commands, we must obey God.

Verses 30-32 Peters 4th Sermon: Shortest but so powerful. In just three verses, Peter gives the gospel message. (Kerygma)

1. Verse 30 Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus: Acts 5:30 "The God of our fathers - The God of Israel raised up Jesus, (Resurrection) raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. 1 Corinthians 2:2

2. Verse 31 The Exaltation of Jesus: Acts 5:31 Jesus is the giver of life.

"He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand - The Ascension and exaltation of Jesus (He finished the work of Salvation).

as a Prince (Isa 9:6 God's Son) and a Savior, Messiah, the only deliverer.

to grant repentance to Israel, (Israel's opportunity for a Change in heart and mind) **and forgiveness of sins.** (Made right with God)

3. Verse 32 We Are Witnesses: Acts 5:32 who obey Him." - The surrender of our will to the Savior of our souls. **John 3:36; 1 Thess 2:13**

Acts 5:33 cut to the quick - literally "*Sawn in two*" **and were intending to slay them.** Instead of repentance, they were filled with rage. **Galatians 4:16**

Acts 5:34 Gamaliel - "*God rewards with good.*" **Acts 22:3**, Gamaliel had been Paul's teacher, grandson of the great **Rabbi Hillel**. He died about 52 AD.

a teacher of the Law, respected by all the people, - Distinguished scholar.

Acts 5:35-39 (Just stay neutral when it comes to Jesus! Cool heads prevail.)

Acts 5:40-41 They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them - "*to flay, to scourge, or to thrash, beat.*"

Application:

1. The Result Of The Purging Of Sin In The Early Church Produced New Power.
2. When God's Witness Goes Forth, People Can Withdraw From The Light, Or They Can Be Drawn To The Light.
3. God's Deliverance Comes In Many Ways, Both Natural And Supernatural.
4. Just Because Something Grows, Does Not Mean It Is Of God.