

Acts 3-5:

The Evil Empire Strikes Back

ACTS SERIES
1MOSAIC CHURCH
APRIL 23, 2023

Acts 3-5 Outline: The Evil Empire Strikes Back

- Chapter 3
 - Peter heals the Crippled Beggar (3:1-10)
 - Peter's Sermon to the Crowd (3:11-26)
- Chapter 4
 - Peter and John on Trial before the Sanhedrin (4:1-22)
 - Peter's defense (4:8-12)
 - The Court's decision (4:13-22)
 - The Church Prays (4:23-31)
 - The Believers enjoy Fellowship / Koinonia (4:32-37)
- Chapter 5
 - Ananias and Sapphira are Punished (5:1-11)
 - The Church advances Forward (5:12-16)
 - The Sanhedrin intensifies its Opposition (5:17-42)

Acts Week #2: Acts 3-5

^{NIV} **Acts 3:1-6** *One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer – at three in the afternoon. ² Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" ⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. ⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."*

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NIV Acts 3:7-11 ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. ¹¹ While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade.

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NIV Acts 4:12 *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.*

NIV Acts 4:18-21a ¹⁸ *Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.* ¹⁹ *But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: listen to you, or to Him? You be the judges!"* ²⁰ *As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."* ²¹ *After further threats they let them go.*

Acts Week #2: Acts 3-5

NIV Acts 4:23-28 ²³ On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. ²⁴ When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "**You made** the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵ **You spoke** by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: "'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶ The kings of the earth rise up [take their stand] and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his Anointed One. '{Ps 2:1-2}' ²⁷ Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸ They did what **Your power and will had decided** beforehand should happen.

Acts Week #2: Acts 3-5

^{NIV} **Acts 4:29-33** ²⁹ Now, Lord, (1) consider their threats and (2) enable Your servants to speak Your word with great boldness. ³⁰ (3) Stretch out Your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of Your holy servant Jesus." ³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. ³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.

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NIV Acts 5:1-5 Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. ² With his wife's full knowledge he kept back [*misappropriate*] part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet. ³ Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have **lied to the Holy Spirit** and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴ Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? **You have not lied just to human beings but to God.**" ⁵ When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened.

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^{NIV} **Acts 5:14, 17-18** ¹⁴ **Nevertheless,** more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number....¹⁷ Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸ They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.

Acts Week #2: Acts 3-5

NIV Acts 5:40b-42 ⁴⁰ 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. ⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, **rejoicing** because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. ⁴² 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 Messiah.

Take Away #1:

- Are we willing to Suffer Persecution for our Faith?

Take Away #2:

- Are we willing to Pray Bold, Building-Shaking Prayers?

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