

Series: The Acts of the Apostles: From Jerusalem

Text: Acts 5:12-42

HI: Every scheme of man bows to God's plan.

Title: *Rise of the Resistance*

Hook: Underdog

Date: 10.30.22

Purpose: To encourage God's people to bear witness to Jesus with the joy of the Lord.

FCF: Like the Apostles, we experience the brokenness and corruption of this world as those who peddle in lies seek to silence the truth. God's grace is visible in this space, as the sovereign Lord puts his enemies to shame, and gives his people great joy on the mission of Jesus.

COR: The ministry of the Apostles significantly impacted the poor and broken. As the power that be persecute them, we see the injustice, and this could lead us to anger and bitterness. But through the trust in the sovereign Lord, the Apostles respond exactly opposite, walking in great joy even as they face persecution.

Witness of Christ [WC*]: Jesus is the "word of Life" (v. 20), he is the "Leader and Savior," (v. 31) and he gives great joy to his witnesses (v. 41).

Apologetic: Longing for justice fulfilled in the 'word of Life' which is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Form: Inductive

Outline:

I. God's power is growing his people. (12-16)

A. This is God's work, not man's movement. (12-14a)

B. This is the power of Jesus, meeting human need. (14b-16)

II. God's people speak his word, as his rivals play the fool. (17-32)

A. The apostles are stepping out of line. (17-18)

B. The Sadducees are being put in their place. (18-26)

C. As high priest pulls rank, the apostles bear witness. (27-32)

III. Human uprisings fail, as God's will prevails. (33-42)

A. Manmade movements rise and fall. (33-39)

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B. They issue empty threats. (40)

C. The apostles carry on full of joy. (41-42)

Main Idea:

Subject: How does the opposition of the religious leaders impact the witness of Christ through the apostles?

Complement: It validates that this is an authentic work is from God.

Exegetical Idea: As the religious leaders bring opposition against the apostles, the witness of Christ is validated as an authentic work of God.

Theological Idea: All opposition to God's plan comes to nothing.

Homiletical Idea: Every scheme of man bows to God's plan.

Introduction:

(PIC: Underdog)

READ Acts 5:12-16

¹² Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico.

¹³ None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem.

¹⁴ And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,

¹⁵ so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them.

¹⁶ The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

I. God's power is growing his people. (12-16)

"Dared" = To presume or act rashly

Thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require my sheep at their hand and put a stop to their feeding the sheep. No longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, that they may not be food for them. ¹¹ "For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. (Ezekiel 34:10-12)

READ Acts 5:17-26

¹⁷ But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy

¹⁸ they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison.

¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said,

²⁰ "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

²¹ And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach. Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

²² But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported,

²³ "We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside."

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

²⁵ And someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people."

²⁶ Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

II. God's people speak his word, as his rivals play the fool. (17-32)

Albert Einstein: "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results."

v. 24: Greatly perplexed = Baffled

"Safety is not the inheritance of Jesus' disciples, only witness."

READ Acts 5:27-32

²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them,

²⁸ saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us."

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

³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree.

³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

"Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus....²⁵ And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" (Matt. 27:20, 25)

The witness of Jesus:

1) The curse reversed

2) The grave defeated

3) The Savior exalted

4) The offer extended

READ Acts 5:33-42

³³ When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them.

³⁴ But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while.

³⁵ And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men.

³⁶ For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing.

³⁷ After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered.

³⁸ So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail;

³⁹ but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice,

⁴⁰ and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

⁴¹ Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

III. Human uprisings fail, as God's will prevails. (33-42)

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⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith-- more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire-- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:6-7

² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. James 1:2-3

as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything. 2 Corinthians 6:10

Jesus foretold it: "Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you, insult you, and slander your name as evil because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy. Take note—your reward is great in heaven, for this is the way their ancestors used to treat the prophets" Luke 6:22–23

Tertullian, addressing the rulers of the Roman Empire, cried out: 'Kill us, torture us, condemn us, grind us to dust.... The more you mow us down, the more we grow; *the seed is the blood of Christians.*'

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