



"The Apostles Arrested"

Acts 5:17-42

Acts: The Unstoppable Gospel

I. INTRODUCTION

James 4:7 – "Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

It isn't easy sharing the Gospel; every time we do this, a spiritual battle takes place.

II. THE TEXT

Acts 5:14 – "And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number."

The devil tried to mess with God's plan inwardly; now he's up to his old schemes again, but through these Sadducees' jealousy.

A. ACT 1: THE ARREST (Acts 5:17-18)

- The apostles were not arrested for breaking the law, but because the Sadducees were "filled with jealousy".
- This caused the Sadducees to arrest the apostles and laid their hands on them.

B. ACT 2: PEACE OUT! (Acts 5:19-21)

- The apostles shared the "whole message of this life" with the Sanhedrin when the sun peaked out.
- This occurred some time between about 5:00 am or 6:00 am.
- The apostles most likely had a rough night; beaten, assaulted, and thrown into a holding cell. However, they still got up and shared about Jesus' life, the biggest love story ever told.

C. ACT 3: THE HIDE N SEEK (Acts 5:21-26)

- The Senate is a group of powerful religious Sadducees
- This power team included the High Priests, the Chief Priests, the Elders, and the Scribes.
- All of them were gathered together to put the apostles on trial for sharing JESUS' message and for healing others in HIS name (Acts 5:12-16).
- The Senate members were "perplexed" about how the apostles escaped.
- The apostles used their freedom to obey God and preach.
- Just like a game of hide-n-seek, the Senate needed to find these saints and address them.
- The Senate members were scared because the apostles had a big following.

D. ACT 4: THE INTERROGATION (Acts 5:27-32)

- Peter is essentially interrogating the Senate, even though these saints are the ones on trial.
- Acts 5:30 – "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross".
- Peter trusted in the Holy Spirit to protect him, even as he preached to the ones who took offense to him and wanted his team dead.

WE MUST OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MAN

- Romans 13:1-2 – “Everyone is to be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist are established by God. Therefore, whoever resists authority has opposed God's ordinance; and they will receive condemnation upon themselves.”
- Daniel writes in Chapters 3 and 6 about how the land's law came into conflict with God's law.
- God is our HIGHEST AUTHORITY. We need to obey the law of the land, but not if it contradicts God's Word.

E. ACT 5: THE BIG DOG (Acts 5:33-39)

- Gamaliel was a Pharisee and Paul's teacher (Acts 22:3).
- Gamaliel's principle: "For if this plan or action is of men, it will be overthrown; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them".
- The central question of the text: is this Jesus movement of man... or of God?

F. ACT 6: PRAISE WHILE FLOGGED (Acts 5:40-42)

- The apostles rejoiced at the opportunity to suffer for Jesus; this puts a whole new meaning to the phrase, "I'll praise You in the storm".

III. THE PRINCIPLES

- Gamaliel's principle is at work (vv. 38-39): the Sanhedrin's plan and action is man's, and it fails.
- The apostles' actions are of God, and they cannot be stopped.
- The Gospel movement will continue, even in the face of opposition, because it is God's movement.
 1. If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31).
 2. God is working for our good: 2 Timothy 2:8-13 shares of Paul in prison because of the Gospel.
 - He didn't get a jailbreak, but this does not stop God's work (Romans 8:28).
 3. All human attempts to suppress the Gospel will ultimately fail.
 - In fact, whatever the devil does to thwart the Gospel, it will succeed, surpass him, and grow even stronger.
 - We learn this from Jesus Christ's death and resurrection.
 - The devil thought he had won, but that was far from the truth.
 - JESUS served HIS sentence and rose from the grave, defeating death once and for all.

IV. APPLICATION

- Each One Win One: will we continue to share the Gospel in the face of opposition, even though it's scary?

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

1. Did you know you are invincible? Nothing can touch you unless God allows it.
 - a. Knowing this, how does this inspire you to follow the Great Commission (the command by Jesus to disciple people from all over and teach them)? (Matthew 28:16-20)
2. How does Acts 5:17-42 inspire you to live out your faith and what you have learned so far about "the message of this life"?
3. What is stopping you from taking that first step to sharing His Good News?
4. Who can you share the Gospel with this week? Think of those you work with, your hobbies, and your neighbors.