

His Divine Purpose

Acts 5

12 The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. **13** No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. **14** Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. **15** As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. **16** Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.

The Apostles Persecuted

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. **19** But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. **20** "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people all about this new life."

21 At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.

When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles. **22** But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, **23** "We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside." **24** On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were at a loss, wondering what this might lead to.

25 Then someone came and said, “Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people.” **26** At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

27 The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. **28** “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

29 Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men! **30** The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. **31** God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. **32** We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

33 When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. **34** But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. **35** Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. **36** Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. **37** After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. **38** Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. **39** But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”

- Oh that we might find ourselves, by the Grace of God, walking in God’s Divine Purpose

- God has his own Divine Purpose and it is supported by the supernatural power of God...
 - What God has purposed no man can stop...
 - If you are saved today it's because of His Purpose at work in you...
 - If you've been delivered, it's because of His Purpose...
 - If you came close to death but your life was spared, it's because God has a Divine Purpose...
 - The Apostles in Acts 5 were operating in something beyond themselves and their own ability...
 - The Apostles were obedient to the Lord, doing the Lords will...
- Vs. 29** "We must obey God rather than men!"

- They were not serving their own selfish desire, but the interest of God, therefore they were surrounded by the activity of God, even steel bars and prison walls couldn't stop what God was doing...

Vs. 19, 20

But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. **20** "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people all about this new life."

"This was easy for God to arrange. Angels are all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation (Hebrews 1:14). God sent forth this angel to minister to the apostles. Locked doors are nothing for God or those who He uses. Possibly, they only understood this was an angel in retrospect. Angels often come in human appearance, and it may not always be easy to recognize an angel in the moment." (Guzik)

- What the Apostles faced was a very serious threat...
- Keep in mind the religious leaders just made the decision to crucify Jesus...

- These disciples are Jesus' followers and in the minds of the religious, they could be considered as much of a threat as Jesus himself... Jesus also warned the disciples "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first."
- In the face of the storm: **29** Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men! **30** The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. **31** God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. **32 We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.**"

The Apostles just said something deeply profound; **We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit.** The Apostles and the Holy Spirit are working together for the Lord...

This is where the power comes from... When we work together with the Holy Spirit...

This is where the Divine Purpose of God turns into a Tornado Storm of Grace...

People are being healed...

People are being delivered...

The Gospel is being preached in power...

The Holy Spirit is moving...

People are being added to their number daily...

Nothing can seem to stop it...

You remember the story of Moses and the Burning Bush...

God says to Moses:

Exodus 3

7 ...“I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. **8** So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey... **9** And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. **10** So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

11 But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

12 And God said, “I will be with you.

As Moses goes and things get difficult and Pharaoh is resisting the request to “Let God’s people go” in the midst of the miracles and plagues God says to Pharaoh...

Exodus 9:16

But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.

- The Lord says to Pharaoh you have been caught in a Tornado Storm of Grace, towards my people, and nothing you can ever do will stop my Divine Purpose for them...
- In fact I’m going to demonstrate my power against you in such a way they will never forget it...

Moses was a man like you and I, He just stepped into God’s Divine Purpose and witnessed a Tornado Storm of Grace...

Ezekiel 36 - The Lord Assures Israel’s Restoration

22 “Therefore say to the Israelites, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: It is not for your sake, people of Israel, that I am

going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. **23** I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, when I am proved holy through you before their eyes.

24 “For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. **25** I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. **26** I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. **27** And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. **28** Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God. **29** I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you. **30** I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field, so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations because of famine.

31 Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices. **32** I want you to know that I am not doing this for your sake, declares the Sovereign Lord. Be ashamed and disgraced for your conduct, people of Israel!

God promises them:

- I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land.
- I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean.
- I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

- I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees... and laws.
- you will be my people, and I will be your God.
- I will save you from all your uncleanness.
- I will call for the grain and make it plentiful... I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field, so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations.

God promises all of this but not because Israel deserves it... You could say they deserve the opposite...

- When the Jewish people were exiled out of their land, they did not necessarily glorify God in those foreign places.
- God's promises of restoration to Israel were not only for the sake of Israel but even more so for His holy name.
- Israel is His Inheritance...

Psalm 33:12

Blessed *is* the nation whose God *is* the Lord, The people He has chosen as His own **inheritance**.

Psalm 94:14

For the Lord will not cast off His people, Nor will He forsake His **inheritance**.

God does this for them because he purposed in His heart to love them, even for his own name sake... He is like a faithful husband to an unfaithful wife...

- He says: Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices.
- The Lord says I will show you my goodness even when you didn't deserve it...

His Divine Purpose is carried out among a people who do not deserve it...

Reminds me of

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2 Timothy 1:9

He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.