

THE **ACTS** OF FAITH

PIONEERS

WHATEVER, WHENEVER, HOWEVER... I'M IN



MY WITNESSES

THE TWELVE APOSTLES

PETER Influential Leader

JAMES Passionate Fighter

JOHN Man of Conviction

ANDREW Servant Leader

PHILIP Detail Guy

BARTHOLOMEW The Scholar

MATTHEW Recovering Rebel

THOMAS Faithful Follower

JAMES Obscure One

THADDAEUS Hype Guy

SIMON An Activist

MATTHIAS The Replacement



WHATEVER

(I WILL SURRENDER MY COMFORTS)

WHENEVER

(I WILL SURRENDER MY PLANS)

HOWEVER

(I WILL SURRENDER MY WAYS)



"GOD ALMIGHTY HAS SET
BEFORE ME TWO GREAT OBJECTS,
THE SUPPRESSION OF
THE SLAVE TRADE
AND THE REFORMATION OF
MANNERS (MORIALITY)."

William Wilberforce



"YOU MAY CHOOSE
TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY,
BUT YOU CAN
NEVER SAY AGAIN
THAT YOU DID NOT KNOW."

William Wilberforce



AGGRESSIVE IN THEIR APPROACH

Advocates aggressively impose their will into the situation.

RELENTLESS IN THEIR PURSUITS

Advocates simply will not take "no" for an answer.

BOLD IN CONFRONTATION

Advocates are "willing to speak truth" despite making enemies.

INFORMED IN THEIR POSITIONS

Advocates are extremely informed in their position.

LOYAL IN THEIR DEFENSE

Advocates have intense loyalty to whom they are defending.



UNLEASHED

THE **RISE** OF THE APOSTLES



ACTS 5:12-42 **ESV**



UNLEASHED

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.



ACTS 5:12-42 **ESV**



UNLEASHED

None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, *multitudes* of both men and women,



ACTS 5:12-42 **ESV**



UNLEASHED

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.



ACTS 5:12-42 **ESV**



UNLEASHED

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



ACTS 5:12-42 **ESV**



PERSON OF INFLUENCE

"If you're in it for yourself you will get exposed,
If you're in it for God He will be exposed!"

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a rusty metal padlock and chain. The padlock is rectangular with a keyhole and is attached to a thick, dark metal chain. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wall or door, with some light reflecting off the metal. The word "CHAINED" is overlaid in a bold, white, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

CHAINED

But the high priest rose up,
and all who were with him (that
is, the party of Sadducees),
and **filled with jealousy they**
arrested the apostles and put
them in the public prison.



ACTS 5:12-42 **ESV**

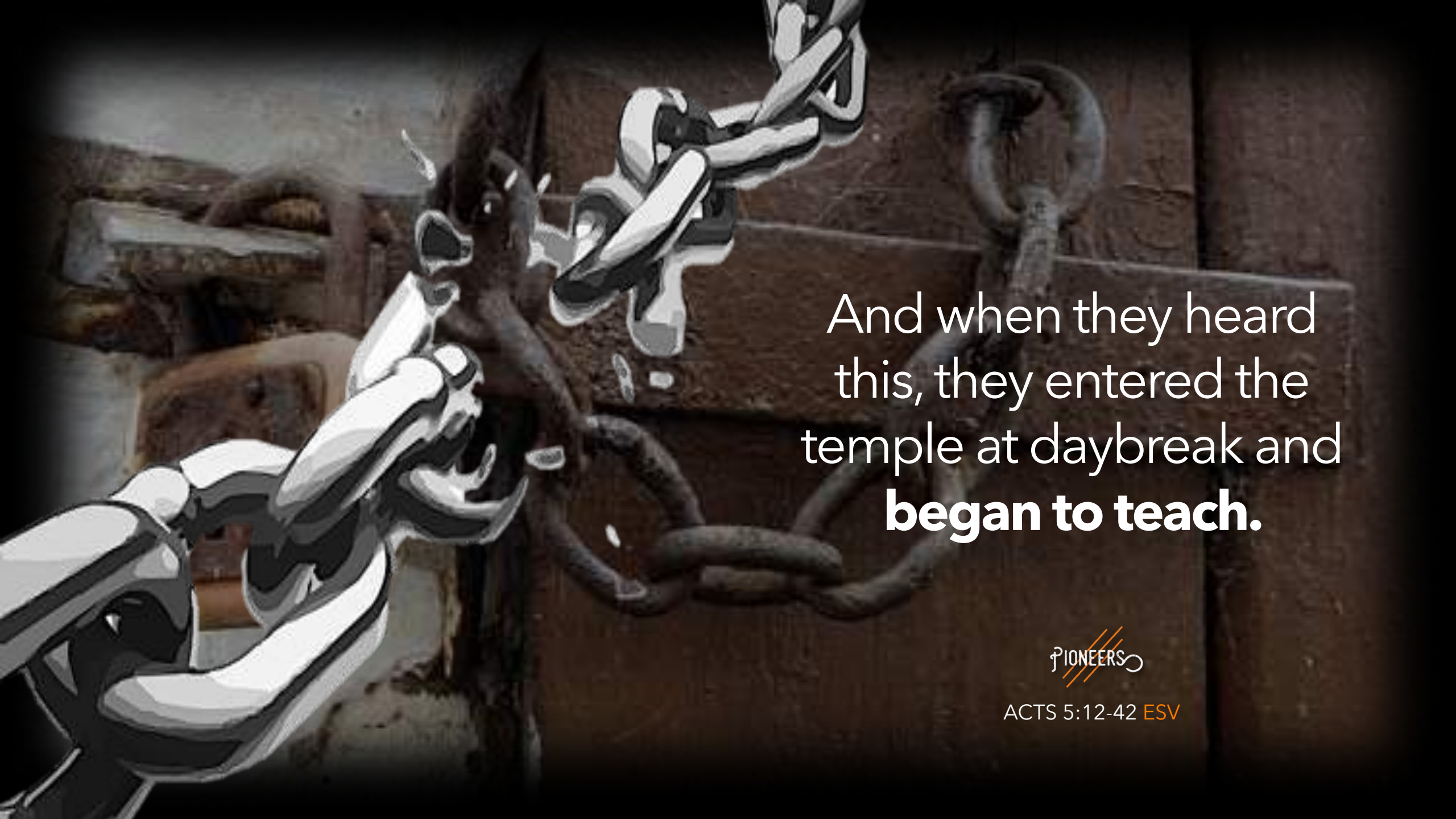


CHAINED

But during the night an angel
of the Lord opened the
prison doors and brought
them out, and said, **"Go and
stand in the temple and
speak to the people all the
words of this Life."**



ACTS 5:12-42 **ESV**



And when they heard
this, they entered the
temple at daybreak and
began to teach.



ACTS 5:12-42 **ESV**



CHAINED

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.



ACTS 5:12-42 **ESV**



CHAINED

But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, **"We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors,** but when we opened them we found no one inside."



ACTS 5:12-42 **ESV**

A close-up photograph of a heavy, rusty metal padlock and its chain. The padlock is rectangular with a keyhole and is attached to a thick metal chain. The background is dark and textured, possibly a metal door or wall. The word "CHAINED" is overlaid in a bold, white, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

CHAINED

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.**



ACTS 5:12-42 **ESV**

A close-up photograph of a heavy, rusty metal padlock and chain. The padlock is rectangular with a keyhole and is attached to a thick metal chain. The background is dark and textured, possibly a metal door or wall. The word "CHAINED" is overlaid in a bold, white, distressed font on the left side of the image.

CHAINED

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



ACTS 5:12-42 **ESV**

**SOLOMON'S
PORTICO**

**CHAMBER OF
HEWN STONE**

**ANTONIA
FORTRESS**



IMAGE: THE TEMPLE - HEROD'S CROWNING GLORY



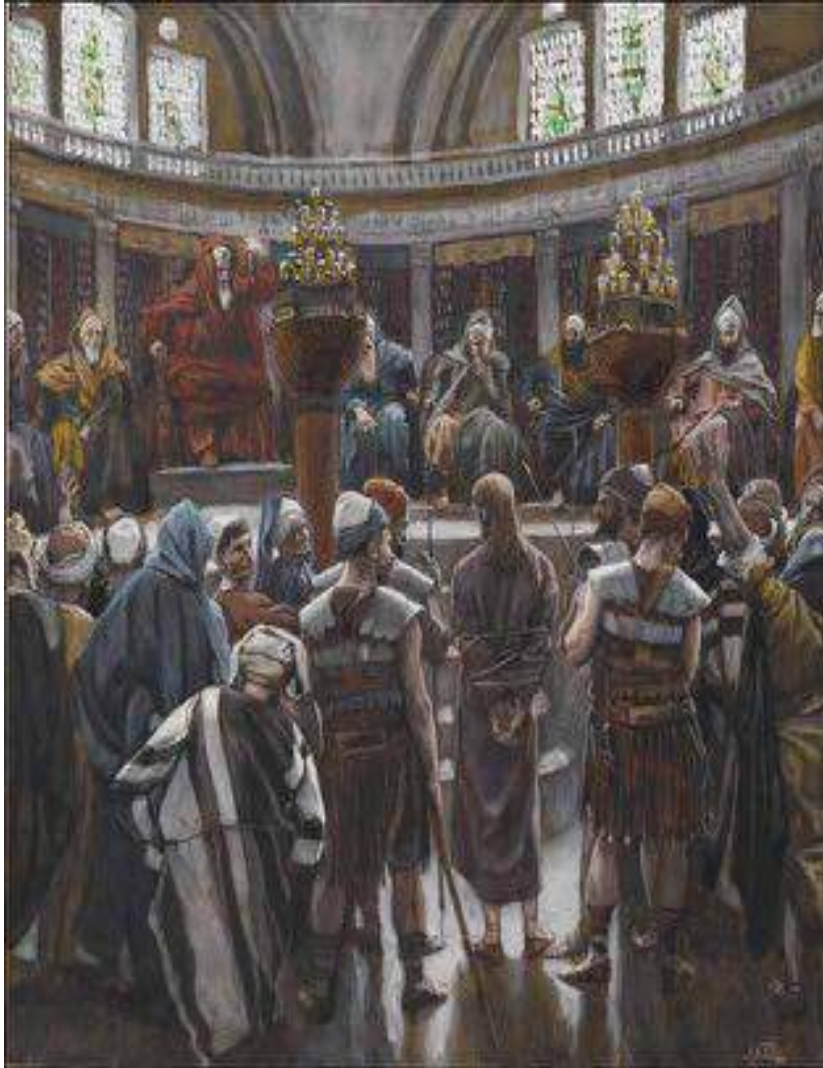
CHAINED

Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, **but not by force**, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people. And when they had brought them, they set them before the council.



ACTS 5:12-42 **ESV**

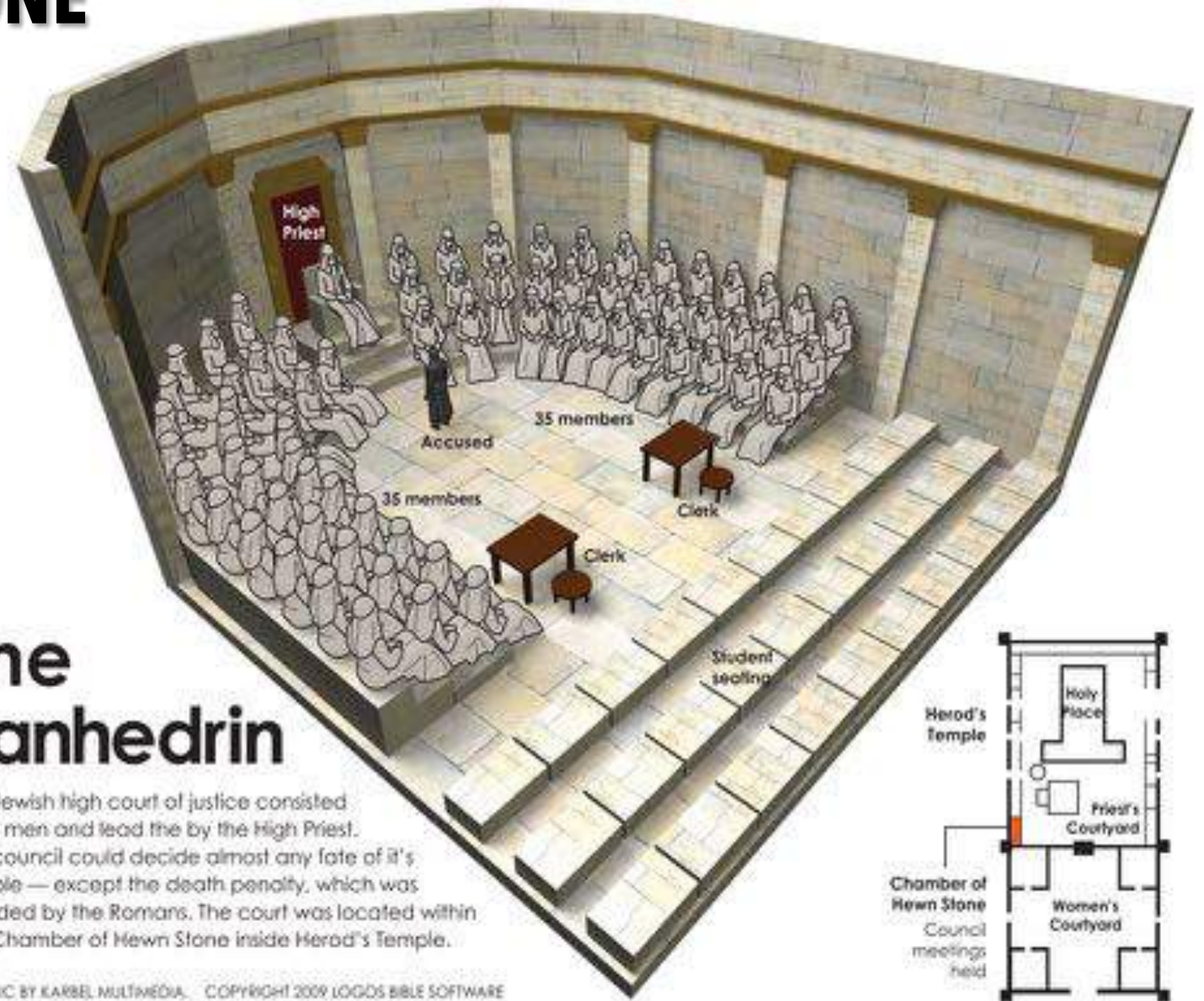
"CHAMBER OF HEWN STONE"



The Sanhedrin

The Jewish high court of justice consisted of 71 men and led by the High Priest. The council could decide almost any fate of its people — except the death penalty, which was decided by the Romans. The court was located within the Chamber of Hewn Stone inside Herod's Temple.

GRAPHIC BY KARBEL MULTIMEDIA. COPYRIGHT 2009 LOGOS BIBLE SOFTWARE



And the high priest questioned them, 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.”



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

The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

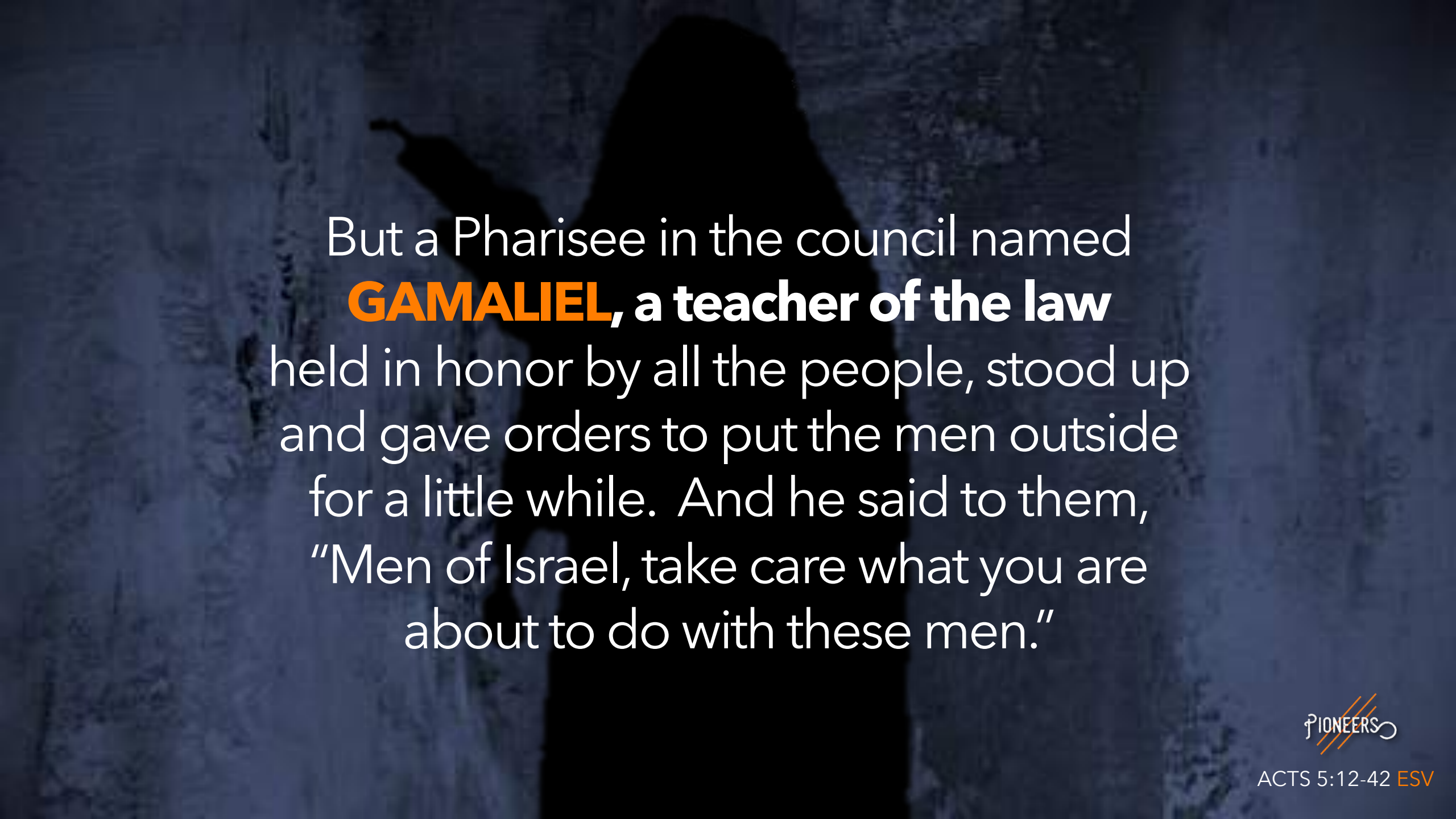
And we are witnesses to these things,
and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has
given to those who obey him."



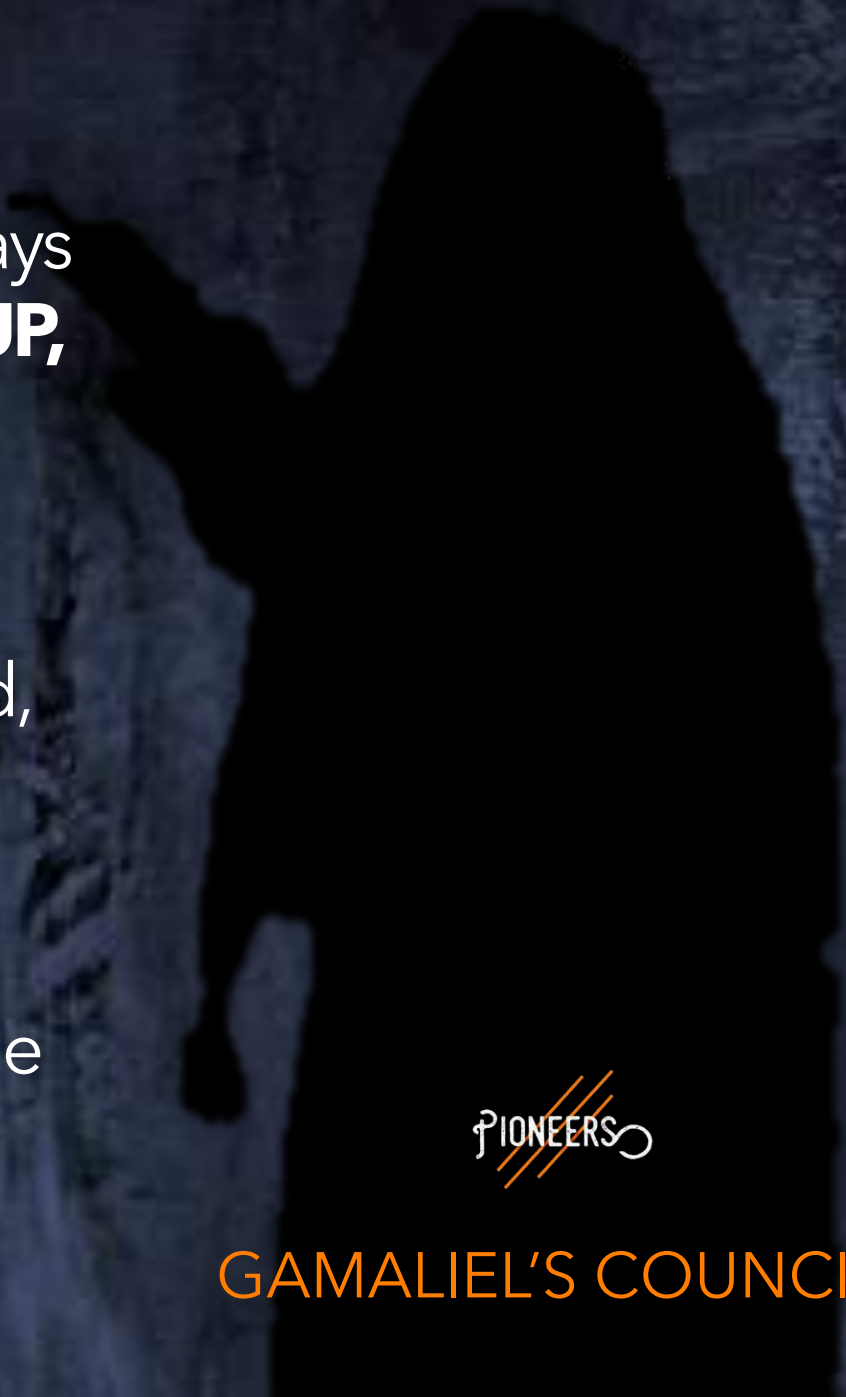
When they heard this, **they were
enraged and wanted to kill them.**



ACTS 5:12-42 **ESV**



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

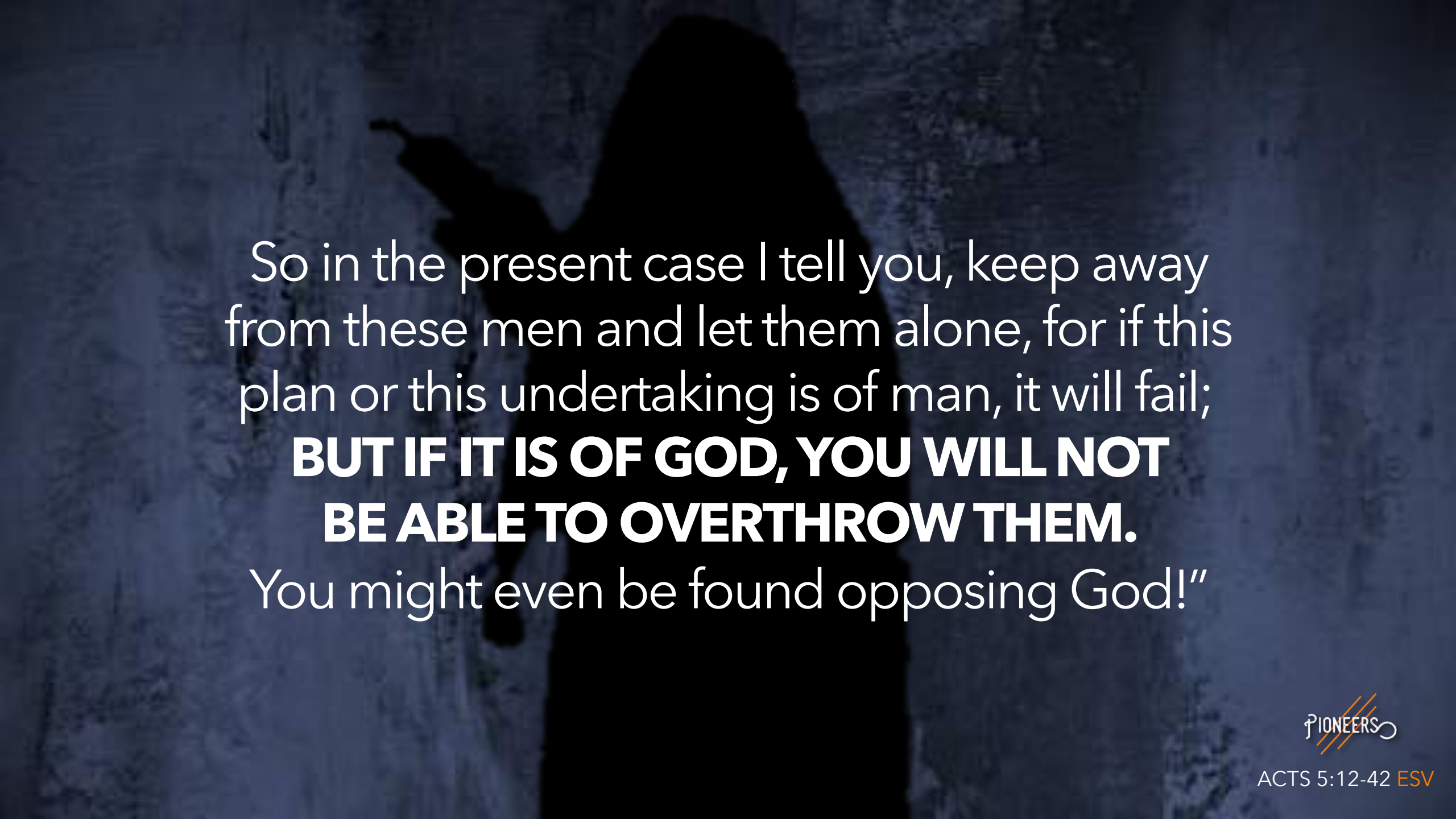


For before these days
THEUDAS ROSE UP,
claiming to be
somebody, and a
number of men,
about four hundred,
joined him. He was
killed, and all who
followed him were
dispersed and came
to nothing.

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.



GAMALIEL'S COUNCIL



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;

**BUT IF IT IS OF GOD, YOU WILL NOT
BE ABLE TO OVERTHROW THEM.**

You might even be found opposing God!”



PIONEERS

Gamaliel

COUNSEL

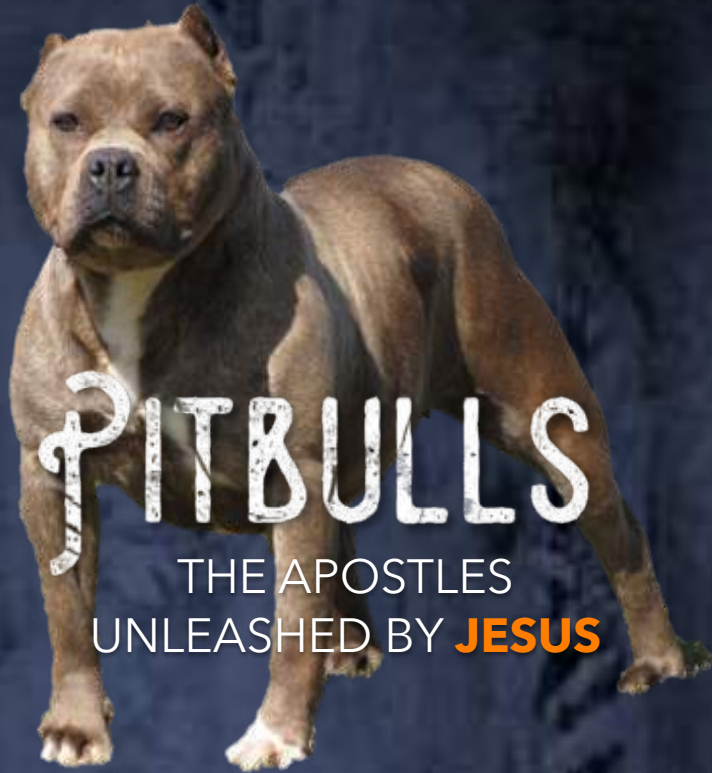
"If it is of God... nothing can stop it."

ACTS 5:39 **ESV**

So they took his advice, 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. Then they left the presence of the council,

Rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.





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5 WORDS OF **CAUTION**



THINK TESTIMONY AMID AGGRESSION

Do not get chained by a poor reputation.

INCLUDE GOD IN THE AGENDA

Do not get chained by self-reliance.

COUNT THE COST BEFORE EACH FIGHT

Do not get chained by every attack.

STAY RESPECTFUL DESPITE CONFIDENCE

Do not get chained by arrogance.

KEEP PERSEPECTIVE IN THE PURSUIT

Do not get so chained to the pursuit you miss the process.



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"My little children, I am writing these things so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an **ADVOCATE** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

1 JOHN 2:1 **ESV**



PERSON OF
INFLUENCE

"WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH YOUR INFLUENCE?"



8 LEADERSHIP HACKS OF PEOPLE WITH

INFLUENCE

@PASTORCHRISHELLER

- ☐ **LIVE** WITH AUTHENTICITY.
- ☐ **SPEAK** WITH INTENTIONALITY.
- ☐ **SERVE** WITH HUMILITY.
- ☐ **CARE** WITH IMPARTIALITY.
- ☐ **GIVE** SACRIFICIALLY.
- ☐ **MANAGE** ADVERSITY.
- ☐ **DISCERN** WISELY.
- ☐ **PURSUE** RELENTLESSLY.