

FOLLOWING JESUS

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Acts 5:12-42 (NASB95)

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1. FOLLOWING JESUS UNLEASHES POWER.

Acts 5:12–42 (NASB95) ¹²At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico. ¹³But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem.

¹⁴And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number, ¹⁵to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them. ¹⁶Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.

2. FOLLOWING JESUS UNLEASHES PERSECUTION.

¹⁷But the high priest rose up, along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail.

3. FOLLOWING JESUS UNLEASHES PREACHING.

¹⁹But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said, ²⁰"Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life." ²¹Upon hearing this, they entered into the temple about daybreak and began to teach. Now when the high priest and his associates came, they called the Council together, even all the Senate of the sons of Israel, and sent orders to the prison house for them to be brought. ²²But the officers who came did not find them in the prison; and they returned and reported back, ²³saying, "We found the prison house locked quite securely and the guards standing at the doors; but when we had opened up, we found no one inside." ²⁴Now when the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them as to what would come of this. ²⁵But someone came and reported to them, "The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!" ²⁶Then the captain went along with the officers and proceeded to bring them back without violence (for they were afraid of the people, that they might be stoned). ²⁷When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us." ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men." ³⁰"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. ³¹"He is the one whom God exalted to

His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.
³²“And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

4. FOLLOWING JESUS UNLEASHES PRAISE.

³³But when they heard this, they were cut to the quick and intended to kill them. ³⁴But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the Law, respected by all the people, stood up in the Council and gave orders to put the men outside for a short time. ³⁵And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you propose to do with these men. ³⁶“For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a group of about four hundred men joined up with him. But he was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷“After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census and drew away some people after him; he too perished, and all those who followed him were scattered. ³⁸“So in the present case, I say to you, stay away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or action is of men, it will be overthrown; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God.” ⁴⁰They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them. ⁴¹So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name. ⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.