

Acts 5.17-42

God First

GROWTH of Church > EMPOWERED in Worship / ENGAGED w/ WORLD

Ch 1 – 120 in Worship, Waiting, Preparing

Ch 2 – Spirit-filled Church Engages World – City of Jerusalem

End of Ch 2 – Church Empowered in Worship

Ch 3 & first part of Ch 4 – Engage World, Healing, Preaching

End of Ch 4 – Church in Prayer, Praise, Worship

Ch 5 – World infects Church – Lying, Hypocrisy > Cleansing, Judgment

Then Again - EMPOWERED in Worship / ENGAGED w/ WORLD

BALANCE – Church SENT into WORLD – STRENGTHENED by WORSHIP

No WORSHIP > Become SECULAR // No WITNESS > SELF-ABSORBED

1. The Folly of Opposing God    2. The Freedom of Obeying God

1. The Folly of Opposing God

a. Fight for Followers    Growth of Early Church > Shrank Ranks of Jews

v. 17 Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were *filled with jealousy*.

WHY these SOPHISTICATED Leaders Jealous of RAG-TAG GALILEANS?

COUNCIL > Well Educated, Properly Ordained, Government Approved

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. Acts 4.13

MAGNETIC ATTRACTION of Jesus – More POWERFUL than Yoke of Law

DAY of PENTECOST -

....about three thousand were added to their number that day Acts 2.41

many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand Acts 4.4

more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number  
Acts 5.14

A leader with no followers is just a man taking a walk. E.V. Hill

**SIMILAR Jealousy TODAY > LANDS Non-Xtian Systems DOMINATE HOSTILITY and HATRED Against CHRIST and HIS CHURCH  
Hindus in India – Buddhists in SE Asia – Muslims in Middle East  
FOLLOWERS of Jesus AROUSE Intense > Sometimes Deadly > Opposition**

**INTENSE EFFORTS did NOT SLOW Increase of Church**  
The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.  
Acts 6.7

**b. Force > Religious Leaders attacked with POLITICAL & POLICE Power**

**COULD NOT REFUTE the TRUTH and POWER of Apostle's MESSAGE  
Responded with FORCE > 1<sup>st</sup> THREATS, 2<sup>nd</sup> BEATINGS, 3<sup>rd</sup> DEATH**

**NAKED POWER is ONLY WEAPON of WORLD**

v. 18 They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.

When they MYSTERIOUSLY GOT OUT of PRISON....

v. 40 They called the apostles in and had them flogged.

They were jealous of Jesus because it was his name, rather than theirs, that was proclaimed. They were also jealous of the apostles because they were preaching powerfully and doing miracles and because people were following them.

James Boice

**c. Faulty Facts**

The Sadducees say that there is *no resurrection*, and that there are *neither angels nor spirits...*  
Acts 23.8

**Thus >> God is Weak Today \ God is Worthless on the Final Day**

God is Weak Today? > ANGELS God's Servants to HELP His Children

v. 19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out.

Word ANGEL occurs 21 times in Acts > SUPPORT God's SERVANTS

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation? Hebrews 1.14

God is Worthless on Final Day? > NO RESURRECTION > Gospel is HOAX

d. Finesse > Gamaliel, Pharisee, Member of Minority Party in Sanhedrin

v. 34 ...a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people

GAMILIEL – Praised for WISDOM, RESTRAINT, PATIENCE  
TODAY > NOBEL Peace Prize > Secretary-General of UNITED NATIONS

True > MORE REASONABLE than ENRAGED SADDUCEES > NOT SEE...

1) Obvious NO MENTION of CLEAR TRUTH These Guys are UNUSUAL

Story began Ch 3 – 1st INTERROGATION after HEALING of LAME MAN...  
They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them...  
since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them,  
there was nothing they could say. So they ordered them to withdraw from the  
Sanhedrin and then conferred together. "What are we going to do with these  
men?" they asked. *"Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an  
outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it."* Acts 4.7-17

vs. 27,28 Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the  
Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. "We gave you strict orders not to  
teach in this name. Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching..."

Something MISSING!! NEVER ASKED 'Hey, how did you guys GET OUT?!'  
To ASK QUESTION > ADMISSION that their God is TRUE, POWERFUL

Gamaliel seems SOPHISTICATED, OBJECTIVE > But is PRETTY STUPID  
POWER of JESUS is AS OBVIOUS as NOSE on his FACE > BLIND to It!

2) Once for All > Shows CYCLICAL View of History 'Here we go AGAIN!'

vs. 36,37 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. 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.

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT, NOW HERE'S Another CLAIM to POWER!

GOD of ISRAEL > Definitive Historical ACTS to SAVE His People

- Afflicted EGYPTIANS with PLAGUES and DEATH
- Opened the RED SEA > DROWN Persecutors / DELIVER His People
- Met MOSES on Mt. SINAI > Made COVENANT, Gave LAW

GOD'S COMING in Christ > ONCE FOR ALL Salvation for CHURCH

- VIRGIN Conceives gives BIRTH to SON > Fully Man, Fully God
- DIES on CROSS as SUBSTITUTE for HIS PEOPLE, REDEEMER
- 3 Days Later > ALIVE, RISEN in GLORY, RESURRECTION Body
- 40 Days Later > ASCENDS to Heaven > Enthroned, EXALTED

Gamaliel's CLAIM > OTHER Guys DEAD and GONE > NEVER Returned  
JESUS was KILLED > But HE SURE SEEMS TO BE VERY MUCH ALIVE!

3) Opportunity > Private Audience w/ APOSTLES of Jesus > Hear Them!

v. 31 God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.

LOST Opportunity > Turned Discussion from Jesus to 2 Dead Insurrectionists

WORLD Commend > CAUTION, BALANCE, OBJECTIVITY, IMPARTIAL  
**"Just, wait a minute here! Be reasonable, think it over, give it some time!"**

INACTION > Allows EVIL to REIGN UNCHECKED Do its DAMAGE  
Sometimes in SHORT RUN > EVIL SUCCEEDS > The GOOD Die Young

NEUTRALITY about Jesus is NOT AN OPTION > FOR or AGAINST Him  
 Jesus: "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with  
 me scatters."  
 Matthew 12.30

To NOT DECIDE for Jesus is TO DECIDE > It is NO VOTE

GAMALIEL calls it CAUTION > GOD calls it COWARDICE  
 GAMALIEL thought he was DELIBERATING > GOD sees his DENIAL

Truth makes a man of courage and guilt makes that man of courage a coward.  
 Daniel Defoe

SITTING ON THE FENCE is NOT Safe Place > Salvation CLEAR DECISION

e. Final Fears > Sanhedrin tries BAILING Water OUT of a SINKING SHIP!

Several MONTHS BEFORE > Utter DISREGARD of NATION and SELVES

The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd...to have Jesus executed...  
 "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the  
 louder, "Crucify him!"...Pilate said, "I am innocent of this man's blood. It is  
 your responsibility!" All the people answered, "*Let his blood be on us and on  
 our children!*"  
 Matthew 27.20-25

NOW Numbers DECREASING > Some of OWN LEADERS are DEFECTING

v. 17 The high priest and all his associates...were *filled with jealousy*.

It is amazing how much envy can be hidden under the disguise of 'defending  
 the faith'.  
 Warren Wiersbe

Then ANGELS (Which DON'T EXIST) Opened Prison to Release these  
 IGNORANT PREACHERS of RESURRECTION (That NEVER HAPPENED)

v. 24 On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief  
 priests were puzzled, wondering what would come of this.

With No Regard for PERSONAL SAFETY > LIBERATED FOOLS dare to  
PREACH Banned MESSAGE in High Priest's TEMPLE

vs. 25 Then someone came and said, "Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people." 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.

SANHEDRIN > RULERS of the PEOPLE, Now are in FEAR of the PEOPLE

PETER'S PROVOCATIVE Message to COUNCIL of ELDERS...

v. 32 We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.

IF You had HOLY SPIRIT > You'd UNDERSTAND TRUTH in JESUS

**DEAD COUNCIL > Defending OLD, PASSING TRADITIONS**  
**DYNAMIC CHURCH > Declaring NEW, LIVING TRUTH**

v. 33 When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.

v. 28 High Priest: "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name. Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are *determined to make us guilty of this man's blood.*"

DARE NOT Speak His NAME 'this man's blood' > MAN they FEARED

TESTIMONY of FORMER INSIDER > Saul the Pharisee > Paul the Apostle  
...the Jews, who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets...displease God and are hostile to all men...In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.      1 Thessalonians 2.14-16

Few Years Later > TEMPLE was TORN DOWN, RELIGION made RELIC

ONLY JESUS Saves > STUBBORN Jews & SINFUL Gentiles > NEED HIM

## 2. The Freedom of Obeying God

a. Trust > APOSTLES should be STRESSED (Not Rulers) but they're CALM

NIGHT BEFORE CROSS > Jesus told Eleven Faithful Apostles....

They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. I have told you this, so that *when the time comes you will remember that I warned you.* John 16.2-4

NOW CHURCH is INCREASING >> BUT CONFLICT is INTENSIFYING

ANGEL APPEARS in PRISON CELL >> Is this A DREAM??!!  
COMMAND of Angel > DIRECT CONFLICT w/ COMMAND of Authorities

They called them in again and *commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.* Acts 4.19

TRUST > Not IN OUTCOME > But in GOD WHO HOLDS the OUTCOME  
WE CAN READ 'the Rest of the Story' > They WAITED, UNCERTAIN

HUNDREDS Yrs Before > 3 FAITHFUL Servants of GOD in BABYLON  
King Nebuchadnezzar: "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up?...if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then *what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?*"

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, *the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods...*" Daniel 3.14-18

KNOW God's POWER, DON'T KNOW God's PLAN > Our Good, His Glory  
KNOW Going to BE WITH HIM > Peaceful Sleep or Painful Suffering??

vs. 41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

Early Church Father TERTULLIAN to Rulers of ROMAN EMPIRE

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. Tertullian

NOT MASOCHISTS > God WITH Them > PROMISES are TRUSTWORTHY

...now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy 1 Peter 1.6-8

1. Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

The Heidelberg Catechism, 1563

b. Truth > SUBJECTIVE FEELINGS based on OBJECTIVE FACTS

Christians NOT Only Ones Claim to KNOW God > Acts of Sacrifice, Devotion  
SANHEDRIN Equally PASSIONATE > HELD Truth of God, RIGHTEOUS

1) Resurrection > Book of ACTS – FOUNDATION Jesus is ALIVE!

After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave *many convincing proofs that he was alive.* Acts 1.3

SELECTED 12<sup>th</sup> APOSTLE > PRIMARY REQUIREMENT Seen Risen Jesus

It is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from John's baptism *to the*

*time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.* Acts 1.21-22

DOMINANT THEME of PREACHING > Jesus is ALIVE!

God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was *impossible for death to keep its hold on him.* Acts 2.24

With great power the apostles continued to testify to *the resurrection of the Lord Jesus*, and much grace was upon them all. Acts 4.33

SANHEDRIN Understood > IF Jesus is ALIVE > All He CLAIMED is TRUE  
The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees...were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. Acts 4.1,2

If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead...And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. *But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead!* 1 Corinthians 15.14-20

2) Redeemer > Apostles DO NOT DEFEND Selves > DECLARE Savior

Purchase v. 30 Jesus...whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree

Position v. 31 God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior

Pardon v. 31 that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.

Proof v. 30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead  
v. 32 We are witnesses of these things

Power v. 32 the Holy Spirit, whom God has given

Purity v. 32 those who obey him

### 3) No Rivalry > No One or Nothing else can claim our Ultimate Allegiance

It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed... Salvation is found in *no one else, for there is no other name* under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. Acts 4.10,12

If Peter NOT so PIG-HEADED > They'd be Safely Sleeping in OWN BEDS  
But He LEARNED the PAINFUL CONSEQUENCES of DENYING Jesus

FIRMLY, but TACTFULLY Stated UNWAVERING ALLEGIANCE to Jesus

They called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "*Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God.* For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." Acts 4.18-20

SOME Time in PRISON made them LESS TACTFUL...

v. 29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"

Whenever you see persecution, there is more than a probability that truth is on the persecuted side. Hugh Latimer

English Protestant Pastor, burned at the Stake, 1555

LEGITIMATE Christian CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE...

NOT SUPPORT > IGNORING Speed Limits or Parking Tickets or TAXES  
NO Biblical Support for BOMBING ABORTION CLINICS

NOT SELFISH for GAIN or MORE COMFORT or LAWLESSNESS

STATE OVERSEE > Use of Church Funds, Safety of People, Workers Rights

SATURDAY Night High School Dance > Open Microphone > PREACHED!  
Teachers / Chaperones EVENTUALLY Came and Turned OFF the MIKE  
"Tomorrow, is your day to preach in your Church!" SHUT UP & SAT DOWN  
NOT ONLY PREACHER > NOT ONLY TIME > NOT ONLY PLACE

ALL APOSTLES > v. 18 They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.

ONLY CHURCH > v. 12 The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade

ABSOLUTE BAN > v. 28 "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name"

Since the state's authority has been delegated to it by God, we are to submit to it right up to the point where obedience to the state would involve disobedience to God. At that point it is our Christian duty to disobey the state in order to obey God.

John Stott

When men forbid what God has commanded or command what God has forbidden, we have only one option: 'We must obey God rather than men!'

Dennis Johnson

c. Teaching > PRIMARY Task of Church > Make this MESSAGE KNOWN

ANGELS > Not make LIFE EASIER – Find Parking Spot – Curb Appetites  
WANT Angelic Deliverance?? > DANGEROUS > MORE Safe IN PRISON!

v. 20 "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life."

STRONGHOLD of their ADVERSARIES > No FEAR or SHAME  
God DELIVERS and the SENDS them BACK into DANGER

Many people who escape persecution keep their mouths closed afterwards, as if they had no further obligation to God...But the Lord sets his people free not so they can abandon the course they started, but rather so they can be more keen in the future.

John Calvin

HOW to Teach FULL Message of NEW LIFE?? Like Africans Eat Elephants  
ONE BITE AT A TIME!

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

Go and *make disciples* of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and *teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*  
Matthew 28.19-20

v. 25 "Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people."

SOME Christians > 'I Do NOT SAY ANYTHING – People SEE MY LIFE!'  
NOT ALL OF US CAN BE MOTHER THERESA > We SHOULD BE!  
APOSTLES > Both CONSISTENT Lives AND a CLEAR MESSAGE

v. 28 "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching

High Priest > CONFESSING Powerlessness of MAN to STOP GOD!  
They LIQUIDATED Jesus – LOCKED UP Apostles >> ALL IN VAIN!  
Jerusalem was FILLED with TEACHING > CITIZENS coming to CHRIST

v. 42 Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

YOU THINK THIS SERMON IS LONG!! They NEVER STOPPED!!

DAY AFTER DAY > How Many days has it been since you TOLD  
SOMEONE about Jesus? Yesterday? Day Before? Last Week? Last Year?

Are we MORE AFRAID OF PEOPLE than FOR PEOPLE?

Christianity is a religion with a message, a message so important that it simply must be shared to all who live on earth.  
Ajith Fernando

d. Transforming Picture of FEARLESS, Transformed Disciples

v. 40 They called the apostles in and had them flogged. > WHIPPED

JEWS ALLOWED to Administer > 40 Lashes, minus One > 39 Bloody Stripes  
Sometimes PEOPLE DIED from this TORTUOUS EXPERIENCE

SUFFERING for Jesus is an HONOR which causes JOY!

What makes people REJOICE in SUFFERINGS?

How can people DEFY Authorities which HOLD Power of LIFE & DEATH?  
Jesus is ALIVE!! > ALIVE in HISTORY and ALIVE in their HEARTS

The apostles were not so devoid of sense that they did not feel shame or that they had been wronged. They had not completely thrown out their nature. But when they reflected about the cause, joy took over. John Calvin

NOT EASY > HARD CHOICES > LIVES NO LESS COMPLICATED  
Pressures / Problems / Temptations > REAL and IMAGINED

It is the price of being a Christian that one must be prepared to *obey God rather than men* – and bear the cost of doing so. I. Howard Marshall

SOME PLACES > Attack is this BLATANT > Places NOT FAR AWAY  
MOST PLACES Today > NOT So Blatant > NO LESS INSIDIOUS, EVIL

SIREN SONG of MATERIALISM: Should I not ENJOY Fruit of My LABOR?  
We LIVE IT UP While Much of World is Trying to SIMPLY LIVE

Emphasis on EDUCATION: Should I not GIVE BEST to MY KIDS?  
'Best' Means KIDS become WORLDLY WISE and SPIRITUALLY POOR

Need JOB > Support FAMILY > EMPLOYMENT becomes MASTER  
BEST Efforts ADVANCE Kingdom of MAN > NOT Kingdom of GOD

Concern for FAMILY > Stagnates into ISOLATION from OTHERS  
INDIVIDUALISM Cuts us OFF FROM the FAMILY of GOD

Focus on HEALTH > More FOCUS on QUANTITY of Life than QUALITY  
Early Christians NOT LIVE LONG > But LIVED WELL > Live FOREVER

BECAUSE of their Efforts > Gamaliel Spoke TRULY  
vs. 38,39 For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it  
is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find  
yourselves fighting against God.

> 2000 Years Later - MANY of Us Here from Countries UNKNOWN Then  
Now in NATION > Most of LAST CENTURY said 'THERE IS NO GOD!'  
BELONG to Church of Faithful APOSTLES > NOT of MAN, From GOD!

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Acts 5:17-42

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 the full message of 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 puzzled, wondering what would come of this.

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 Having brought the apostles, they made them 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 fathers raised Jesus from the dead-whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. 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 them: "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."

40 His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. 42 Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.