

Jesus Christ's work through the Apostles in Jerusalem

Lesson 5 Prisoner of Jesus Christ versus prisoner of Sadducees

".... and ye shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judae'a, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." **Acts 1:8**

Introduction: As we saw at the beginning of Chapter 5 an unfortunate event in the life of the early church occurred. Much to our shame, it has been recommitted in our lives many times over. Our desire to be held in high esteem of others quenches the Holy Spirit's work just as it did at the church in Jerusalem for a time. But thank God for His mercy and grace. Thank God he does not leave us or forsake us. With God's intervention the spread of the Gospel is underway once more. At the end of this chapter we will see persecution once again from the religious people of the day as they press forward with God's great work. We will also see that "with God nothing is impossible" and "if God be for us, who can be against us"!!!

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The Time in Between

"And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things. And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one."

1. We see great fear (Believer's, Non-Believer's) V11
2. The power was once again at work V12a
3. Restoration of Unity V12b
4. A pure congregation V13
5. People being saved V14
6. Really Revival (Webster's 1828 – recall to life from death or apparent death; as the revival of a drowned person. In scripture we see the word Revive ~ Quicken) V11-16

“The New Testament Church operating under the power of God is displayed here as being a light to which many people came.” V15-16

RA. Torrey’s Prescription for Revival:

“I can give you a prescription that will bring a revival to any church or community or any city on earth. The prescription is as follows:

First, let a few Christians (they need not be many) get thoroughly right with God themselves. This is the prime essential. If this is not done, the rest that I am to say will come to nothing.

Second, let them bind themselves together to pray for a revival until God opens the heavens and comes down.

Third, let them put themselves at the disposal of God for Him to use as He sees fit in winning others to Christ. That is all! This is sure to bring a revival to any church or community I have given this prescription around the world. It has been taken by many churches and many communities, and in no instance has it ever failed; and it cannot fail!”

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I. The Persecution Returns again to the Church

- a. **(V17)** They were filled with indignation
 - i. Indignation – anger, jealousy, contempt
 - ii. Sadducees did not believe in life after death
 - iii. Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection
 - iv. Sadducees were the upper crust of the religious order (Sanhedrin)

- b. **(V18)** They were cast into prison
 - i. They were put into “common prison”
 - ii. They were cast into prison for preaching Jesus Christ
 - 1. We should be thankful everyday for religious freedom

II. The Providence of God

- a. **(V19-20)** They were freed for a purpose
 - i. Go – **Matthew 28:18-20**
 - ii. Stand - **Ephesians 6:11, 1 Corinthians 16:13**
 - iii. Speak – **1 Thessalonians 1:8, 1 Thessalonians 2:2**

- b. **(V20-21)** They proclaimed the Gospel
 - i. “all the words of this life”
 - ii. There was an immediate obedience

III. The Puzzlement of the Persecutors

- a. (V22-23) The officer's were confused

- b. (V24) The chief priests were scared
 - i. The priests did not see this as supernatural
 - ii. The priests were concerned for their position

IV. The Petition of the Persecutors

- a. (V25-28) God's law versus the laws of men
 - i. Rulers are ordained of God
 - 1. **Psalm 75:6-7**
 - 2. **Romans 13:1**
 - ii. V29 "We ought to obey God rather than men"
 - iii. Remember transitional context
 - iv. Opposition creates opportunity for greater witness

- b. (28) Three implications
 - 1. We commanded you not to teach in His name
 - 2. You have converted all of Jerusalem
 - 3. You are trying to convict us of murder

V. The Proper Response

- a. (V29 -33) Peter's witnessing again
 - i. Peter lays out the Gospel
 - 1. Death – "whom ye slew"
 - 2. Burial/Resurrection – "raised up Jesus"
 - 3. Invitation – "for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins"
 - a. Repentance proceeds forgiveness
 - 4. Proofs –
 - a. God the Father's endorsement
 - b. Apostle's eye Witness
 - c. The Holy Ghost
 - ii. The conviction
 - 1. **Hebrews 4:12**

- b. (V34-40) Gamaliel's wisdom
 - i. **V38** "But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God."
 - ii. Apparently this Pharisee had great pull
 - iii. Paul the Apostle grew up at the feet of Gamaliel
 - 1. **Acts 22:3**

- c. **(41-42) The Work of the Holy Spirit**
 - i. Rejoiced
 - ii. Peace
 - iii. Boldness
 - iv. Meekness
 - v. Faith/ Faithfulness
 - vi. Location and the message