

Persecution



MEMORY VERSE: "Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus."
2 Timothy 2:3



ACTS 5:16-21a Facing Opposition

1. What did the crowds from the villages around Jerusalem do? What happened? v. 16
2. Why did the religious leaders arrest the apostles again? What happened during the night? vv. 17-19
3. Read verses 20-21a. What did the apostles do? What does this tell you about them?



ACTS 5:21b-33 Miraculous Freedom

4. Read verses 21b-23. The doors of the jail were locked with guards at the door, but the apostles weren't there. Why do you think God did this?
5. Read verses 24-33. What did Peter and the other apostles say to the high council? v. 29
What do you think this means?
6. Why does God want this "message of life" (Gospel) to be taught? v. 31b



ACTS 5:34-41 Suffering for Jesus

- 7. A Pharisee named Gamaliel reminds the high council of two men before Jesus who claimed to be "someone great" but the whole movement came to nothing. What was his advice to the council? vv. 38-39

- 8. How did the council respond to Gamaliel's advice? v. 40

- 9. How did the apostles react to their flogging? vv. 41-42

- 10. Where do you think the apostles got the courage to keep telling the people about Jesus?

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

The "message of life", the Gospel, is that Jesus came to take away our sins by dying on the cross and resurrecting to life again to save all who trust in Him. God did this because He loves us so much! The apostles boldly shared this message instead of hiding from their enemies. That takes great faith! The Holy Spirit will help you share this message.

PRAY THE TRUTH

Dear Father, help me understand the Gospel - understand all that Jesus has done for me! Thank You for loving me so much. May the Holy Spirit give me the strength and courage to boldly tell others about Jesus and what He is doing in my life. Amen.

WALK IN TRUTH



Who can you tell about Jesus and what He is doing in your life?



Act 5:16-41 (NLT)

Acts 5:16-21a The Apostles Meet Opposition

16 Crowds came from the villages around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those possessed by evil spirits, and they were all healed. 17 The high priest and his officials, who were Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. 18 They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. 19 But an angel of the Lord came at night, opened the gates of the jail, and brought them out. Then he told them, 20 “Go to the Temple and give the people this message of life!” 21 So at daybreak the apostles entered the Temple, as they were told, and immediately began teaching.

Acts 5:21b-33

When the high priest and his officials arrived, they convened the high council — the full assembly of the elders of Israel. Then they sent for the apostles to be brought from the jail for trial. 22 But when the Temple guards went to the jail, the men were gone. So they returned to the council and reported, 23 “The jail was securely locked, with the guards standing outside, but when we opened the gates, no one was there!” 24 When the captain of the Temple guard and the leading priests heard this, they were perplexed, wondering where it would all end. 25 Then someone arrived with startling news: “The men you put in jail are standing in the Temple, teaching the people!” 26 The captain went with his Temple guards and arrested the apostles, but without violence, for they were afraid the people would stone them. 27 Then they brought the apostles before the high council, where the high priest confronted them. 28 “We gave you strict orders never again to teach in this man’s name!” he said. “Instead, you have filled all Jerusalem with your teaching about him, and you want to make us responsible for his death!” 29 But Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. 30 The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead after you killed him by hanging him on a cross. 31 Then God put him in the place of honor at his right hand as Prince and Savior. He did this so the people of Israel would repent of their sins and be forgiven. 32 We are witnesses of these things and so is the Holy Spirit, who is given by God to those who obey him.” 33 When they heard this, the high council was furious and decided to kill them.

Acts 5:34-41

34 But one member, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, who was an expert in religious law and respected by all the people, stood up and ordered that the men be sent outside the council chamber for a while. 35 Then he said to his colleagues, “Men of Israel, take care what you are planning to do to these men! 36 Some time ago there was that fellow Theudas, who pretended to be someone great. About 400 others joined him, but he was killed, and all his followers went their various ways. The whole movement came to nothing. 37 After him, at the time of the census, there was Judas of Galilee. He got people to follow him, but he was killed, too, and all his followers were scattered. 38 “So my advice is, leave these men alone. Let them go. If they are planning and doing these things merely on their own, it will soon be overthrown. 39 But if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You may even find yourselves fighting



Act 5:16-41 (NLT)

against God!” 40 The others accepted his advice. They called in the apostles and had them flogged. Then they ordered them never again to speak in the name of Jesus, and they let them go. 41 The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus.

Gospel: story of Jesus’ birth, life, death, and resurrection. The message that God sent His Son Jesus to take away our sins by dying on the cross and resurrecting to life again to save all who trust in Him.

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

