

First Baptist Church of Progress Village
Wednesday Bible Study
The Acts of the Apostles Series: Chapter 5 Part 2
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Keywords: Persistence

I. Actions and Reactions of the Early Church

A. Multiplying in the community.

Acts 5:14 *And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.*

B. Serving the needs of the community.

Acts 5:15 *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.*

1. **Physical** Needs met. **Acts 5:16** *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.*
2. **Spiritual** Needs met. **Acts 5:16** *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.*
3. **Unconditional** Needs met. **Acts 5:16** *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.*

* There were no failures and nobody was sent away because he or she "did not have faith to be healed."

4. Eternal Needs met. Winning souls for Christ.

Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

* The greatest miracle of all is the transformation of a lost sinner.

II. Actions and Reactions of the Religious and Secular institutions

A. Persecution is escalated.

Acts 5:17-18 *Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation, And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.*

Why were the high priest and the Sadducees so angry?

Acts 5:19-21 *But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life. And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.*

1) God's Will is **absolute**.

Acts 5:21-28 ...25 *Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people. 26 Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned. 27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, 28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.*

Acts 5:29-32 *Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.*

2) Peter and the apostles **persist** presenting the Gospel.

Acts 5:33-35 *When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them. Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space; And said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men.*

3) Gamaliel was a **Pharisee** and trained **Saul** of Tarsus.

Acts 22:3 *I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.*

4) **Beware** of religions and denominations and politicians who appear to take the "high road". Their motives are not always **pure**.

Acts 5:38-39 *And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.*

Acts 5:40 *And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.*

B. Persecution is **celebrated**.

Acts 5:41-42 *And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*

Believers can have **confidence** in the Gospel of Jesus.

Next Week: Read Acts Chapter 6, Chapter 7, plus 8:1-4 only.