

## A Powerful Gospel

### ▶ They met with regularity

Acts 5:12 And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.

### ▶ The multitudes were respectful

Acts 5:13 No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people.

### ▶ The miracles were remarkable

Acts 5:12 The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people.

Acts 5:15 As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. 16 Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

### ▶ Their multiplication was rapid

Acts 5:14 Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.

## A Persecuted Gospel

### ▶ The authorities were incensed

Acts 5:17 Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy.

### ▶ The apostles were imprisoned

Acts 5:18 They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.

### ▶ The angel worked intervention

#### ✓ Note the angel's miracle

Acts 5:19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out.

#### ✓ Note the angel's message

Acts 5:20 "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life."

## A Persevering Gospel

### ▶ These were some stubborn apostles

Acts 5:21 At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.

### ▶ Those were some surprised authorities

#### ✓ They were amazed at the apostles

Acts 5:21 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.

#### ✓ They were apprehensive but apprehended the apostles again

Acts 5:25 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.

#### ✓ They were aggravated at the apostles

Acts 5:27 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."

#### ✓ They were answered by the apostles

Acts 5:29 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."

#### ✓ They were angry at the apostles

Acts 5:33 When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.

### ▶ There was some sound spiritual advice

#### ✓ Gamaliel was pedigreed

Acts 5:34 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.

Acts 22:3 "I [Paul] am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as zealous for God as any of you are today."

#### ✓ Gamaliel was pointed

Acts 5:35 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."

#### ✓ Gamaliel was persuasive

Acts 5:40 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.

### ▶ These were some steadfast apostles

#### ✓ They went rejoicing

Acts 5:41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

#### ✓ They were resilient and resolved

Acts 5:42 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.

# Acts 5:12-42

12 The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. 13 No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. 14 Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. 15 As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. 16 Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

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.

## Roman Occupation of Israel

- The Roman general Pompey established the Roman province of Syria in 64BC and conquered Jerusalem in 63BC.
- The Romans would control the holy land until 313AD and the Edict of Milan by Constantine the Great and co-emperor Licinius.
- We will examine the Roman officials in the Book of Acts as we come to them in our study, but at the time of Acts 5:
  - ▶ Caesar Tiberius (14AD–37AD) is Emperor of Rome;
  - ▶ Herod Antipas (4BC–39AD) is Tetrarch of Galilee and Perea;
  - ▶ Pontius Pilate (26AD–36AD) is Governor of Judea;
  - ▶ Philip (4BC–34AD) is Tetrarch of Iturea and Tracónitis.
- Throughout the period of Roman rule, the Jews were stubborn; they despised the Romans, and many large and small uprisings occurred.
- Ultimately, the Romans wearied of Jewish rebellion, and the future Emperor Titus sacked Jerusalem and destroyed the Temple in 70AD.
- Thousands of Jews would perish in the destruction of Jerusalem, and the rebels would retreat to Masada for their last stand.
- Masada was surrounded and seized by the Romans and would fall in 73AD with the death of 960 Jews, according to Josephus.
- Gamaliel mentions two Jewish uprisings: Theudas and his 400 men; and Judas the Galilean in the days of the census.
- Gamaliel's points in mentioning those two uprisings are:
  - (1) if a movement is not from God, it will come to nothing; and
  - (2) if a movement is from God, nothing can stop it.
- Though Gamaliel recognized that this Jesus Movement might indeed be from God, he failed to differentiate it from the others.
- The Jewish uprisings were political and militaristic in nature; Jesus had declared to Governor Pilate before his crucifixion (John 18:36):

***My kingdom is not of this world.***

***If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews.***

***But now my kingdom is from another place.***