



# Bethany Bible Study & Discussion:

Wednesdays  
7.30-8.30PM

## ACTS 5

### First Church Discipline & Second Persecution

*Some questions to guide your thoughts as you meditate on Acts 5*

- 1. First Church Discipline (1-11):** a. Were A&S required to sell their possession? b. What was their sin and motive behind their sin? Who did they sin against? c. How did Peter find out? d. How were they disciplined? What was the outcome of discipline? e. Why is discipline necessary in the church? Is it practiced today? f. Were they filled with the spirit in 4: 31? g. Will A&S be in heaven? h. What does Bible teach us about giving?
- 2. Continuing Miracles (12-16):** a. Why were some hesitant to join the church? b. What was the impact of miracles? c. Was everyone healed? Does shadow of great man of God have power to heal?
- 3. Second Persecution (17-42):** a. Why were they imprisoned? What was the surprising message of Angels? (19-21, 25) b. what was Peter's response to council? (26-29) c. What was Peter's message? (30-32) d. What was the impact of the message (33)? e. Who was Gamaliel and what was his suggestion? (34-39), f. What was apostles response to beating (40-41), g. Did the Lord's work suffer because of persecution? (42) h. how can we endure persecution?
4. Important Themes, Important Characters, and Lessons learned (*this is work-in-progress question and we can continue to build the list as we meditate on the book*)

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- d. How were they disciplined? What was the outcome of discipline?
- e. Why is discipline necessary in the church? Is it practiced today?
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- h. What does Bible say about giving?

a. Were A&S required to sell their possession?

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Not required to sell

Not required to give 100% of the sale

b. What was their sin and motive behind their sin?  
Who did they sin against?

## b. What was their sin and motive behind their sin? Who did they sin against?

- Sin: Lying/Deception/Hypocrisy (Pretended to have given it all!)
  - Spirit of lying began in the garden and continues today ... Devil is a liar and father of it (John 8:44), Lord detests lying lips (Proverbs 12:22) Lord hates hypocrisy (Matthew 6:1-4, 15: 7-9, 23:27-28), Do not lie to each other (Colossians 3:9) liars will be found outside the Kingdom (Revelation 22:15)
- Motive: Self-righteousness/public recognition and praise. But God looks at our heart (I Samuel 16:7) ... Our audience should be God and not people!
- Sinned against God (verse 4) ... all sins are first, against God
  - Against You, You only, have I sinned ... (David, Psalms 51:4) (I Thessalonians 4:8)

c. How did Peter find out?

d. How were they disciplined? What was the outcome of discipline?

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**How?:** Through discernment and the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12:8, spirit of knowledge and wisdom)

**Discipline:** Public rebuke that lead to death (4/5, 9/10)

**Outcome:** Great fear in church (5/11) (great power and great grace in 4:33)

\* Church mentioned for the first time in Acts 5:11



Why is discipline necessary in the church? Is it practiced today?

## e. Why is discipline necessary in the church? Is it practiced today?

- It is the will of God to maintain discipline in church
- To avoid decay (I Corinthians 5:6) and death of church
- To keep the church pure (Ephesians 5:25-27)
- To restore fallen believers (Galatians 6:1)
- To experience continued victories (Joshua 7)
- To be an effective testimony to outsiders (II Samuel 12:14-example of bad witness)

f. Were they filled with the spirit in 4: 31?  
g. Will A&S be in heaven?

- Sapphira means 'Beautiful' in Aramaic
- Ananias means 'God is gracious' in Hebrew

f. Were they filled with the spirit in 4: 31?

g. Will A&S be in heaven?

f. Yes (contrast, 4:31 and 5:3)

Their changed behavior shows the need for “continual filling”

- “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9) “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (I Corinthians 10:12)

g. physical death does not imply spiritual death

(I Corinthians 5:5)(I John 5:17)

h. What does Bible say about giving?

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- More blessed to Give (Acts 20:35)
- Give Cheerfully (II Corinthians 9:7)
- Give Secretly (Mathew 6:3, 4)
- Give Sacrificially (II Samuel 24:24)
- **Promise:** If we give prayerfully with the right spirit, we will not lack (Luke 6:38, Matthew 6:4, Malachi 3:10, Psalms 37:25, Mathew 6:33)



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*Some questions to guide your thoughts as you meditate on Acts 5*

1. **First Church Discipline** (1-11):
  
2. **Continuing Miracles** (12-16):
  - a. Why were some hesitant to join the church?
  - b. What was the impact of miracles?
  - c. Was everyone healed? Does shadow of great man of God have power to heal?

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## 2. Continuing Miracles (12-16):

- a. Why were some hesitant to join the church?
  
- b. What was the impact of miracles?
  
- c. Was everyone healed? Does shadow of great man of God have power to heal?



## 2. Continuing Miracles (12-16):

a. Why were some hesitant to join the church? (13)

Maybe because of the high calling of the church/Spiritual discipline

b. What was the impact of miracles?

Multitude of believers added "to the Lord" (14)

Word spreads beyond Jerusalem;

c. Was everyone healed? Does shadow of great man of God have power to heal?

Yes, everyone healed (16) God does complete work

(with 5 loaves and 2 fishes, all were fed! **It is finished!**)



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- 2. Continuing Miracles (12-16):**
- 3. Second Persecution (17-42):**

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# Second Persecution (17-42)

- a. Why were they imprisoned? What was the surprising message of Angels? (19-21, 25)
- b. What was Peter's response to council? (26-29)
- c. What was Peter's message? (30-32)
- d. What was the impact of the message (33)?
- e. Who was Gamaliel and what was his suggestion? (34-39),
- f. What was apostles response to beating (40-41),
- g. Did the Lord's work suffer because of persecution? (42)
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a. Why were they imprisoned? What was the surprising message of Angels? (19-21, 25)

a. Why were they imprisoned? What was the surprising message of Angels? What is the message of life?(19-21, 25)

a. Second imprisonment in common prison (1<sup>st</sup> one in Acts 4:3) ... imprisoned for witnessing about Jesus (v. 17/18)

## b. Angels

a. Delivered them from Prison

b. **Message** ... to return to Temple and Preach about life

c. **Life** ... Repentance that leads to Eternal life (Acts 11:18)

- God is the creator of life (Genesis 2:7, John 1:3.4), giver of everlasting life (John 3:16), giver of abundant life (John 10:10), destroyer of life (Revelation 20:15)

# Angels ... few verses about angels

- Created by God (Colossians 1:16)
- Ministering spirits (Hebrews 1:14)
- Rejoice at our salvation (Luke 15:10)
- Messengers (John 20:11-12, Revelation 14:6)
- Save (Psalms 91:11, Daniel 6:22), Sustain (Mathew 4:11) and Destroy (Psalms 78:49)
- Worshippers in Heaven (Hebrews 12:22, Revelation 4:8, 5:11-12)
- Sinning angels are punished (Isaiah 14:12, II Peter 2:4, Jude 1:6)
- Will return with the Lord (Mathew 16:27)

b. What was Peter's response to council? (26-29)

## b. What was Peter's response to council? (26-29)

v.26 Arrested again

v.27 Second hearing before the council

v.28 Second warning/threat

Effectiveness of apostles witness (**Jerusalem filled with their teachings!**)

v.29 Peter's Response did not change (Acts 4:19-20) (**WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN**)

- *As persecution increases, our faith should not weaken neither should our response change*



## c. What was Peter's message (30-32)

- Similar to Message #1 (ch.2), Message #2 (Ch.3), Message #3 (ch.4)
- **Message (JESUS)**: Jesus crucified by Jews, Raised by God the Father, Exalted by God, path to repentance and forgiveness of sins, and we are His witnesses
- ... gospel message is the most important message!
- Tree: Deuteronomy 21:22-23 (Jewish) (Cross: Romans)

- d. What was the impact of the message (33)?
- e. Who was Gamaliel and what was his suggestion(34-39)?

d. “cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them” (v.33) ... is it the same as “pricked in their heart (2:37)”?

- e. Gamaliel – Senior Rabbi, A Pharisee (member of the council)
  - If it be their own work, it will die a natural death;
  - if it is from God, no one can stop it (no one can fight God and win!)

- f. What was apostles response to beating (40-41),
- g. Did the Lord's work suffer because of persecution? (42)
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**Reason for Joy:** “They departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were **considered worthy to suffer shame** for his name” (v.41)

“... they **ceased not** to teach and preach Jesus Christ” (v.42)

\* blessed are the persecuted, Mathew 5:10-12, I Peter 3:14, II Peter 4:14

**The Great Commission continued, despite Persecution**

**... Praise God!**

# Important themes/moral lessons/application

**R**EVELATION + **A**PPPLICATION = **T**RANSFORMATION

**James 1:22** Do not merely listen to the word,  
and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.



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