



**The Overcomers Christian Fellowship International
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"ACTS OF THE APOSTLES"

CHAPTER FIVE.

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 5:29: "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, we ought to obey God rather than men".

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER.

- 1) To examine the sin of Ananias and Sapphira in lying to the Holy Spirit
- 2) To note the amazing signs and wonders that were done by the apostles, in which all were healed.
- 3) To consider the apostles' response when government seeks to stifle the preaching of the gospel.

OUTLINE

I. ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA (1-11)

A. THEIR PLOT TO DECEIVE (1-2)

1. They sold a possession, but kept back part of the proceeds
2. Ananias brings a part to the apostles, Sapphira aware of his intention to deceive

B. THE DEATH OF ANANIAS (3-6)

1. Peter challenges Ananias
 - a. Why has he allowed Satan to enter his heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?
 - 1) The land was his to use
 - 2) The money was his to control
 - b. He has not lied to men, but to God!
2. Ananias drops dead
 - a. Upon hearing the words of Peter
 - b. Creating great fear on those who heard
 - c. Carried out by young men and buried

C. THE DEATH OF SAPPHIRA (7-11)

1. Peter confronts Sapphira
 - a. She enters three hours later, unaware
 - b. Did she sell the land for a certain amount? Yes, she answers
 - c. Why did she agree with her husband to the test the Spirit?
 - d. Those who buried her husband are ready to carry her out
2. Sapphira falls dead
 - a. Immediately at the feet of Peter
 - b. Carried out by young men and buried by her husband
 - c. Creating great fear upon all the church and all who heard.

QUESTION: A- Peter exercised severe Church discipline. Should Church discipline be used more than it is today? Or less? Under what circumstances?

B- What are the consequences of lack of discipline in the Church today?.

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LESSONS TO LEARN: (1)Satanic tools in the house of God(Ministry of Judas!)
(2)Pretense of some believers. (3)Envyng of others. (4)Manipulating God's people for their own ends. (5)Betrayal of trust. (6)Deceiving others. (7)God's judgement in the New Testament of early Church in action! Other examples are: Achan & his family(Joshua 7:1-26) & Korah, Dathan & Abiram & their families (Numbers 16) .

Paul warns Christians in 1 Cor.5:9-13 to not even "associate" with a "brother" who is practising unrepentant sin, because his sin can have a negative impact on either our personal walk with the Lord, or on the Church as a whole (Gal.5:9) . Are we heading this warning as Christians?. Salvation is personal!

II. THE POWER OF THE APOSTLES AND SPREADING OF GOOD NEWS (12-16)

A. WITH ONE ACCORD IN SOLOMON'S PORCH (12-13)

1. Many signs and wonders were done by the apostles among the People despite the threats from the Sanhedrin & the pressures of internal pastoral problems (i.e. Ananias & Sapphira's episode).
2. While none dared join them (for fear of losing promotion at work or loss of status in the community) they were esteemed highly.

B. HEALING ALL WHO BROUGHT TO THEM (14-16)

1. Believers were increasingly added to the Lord
2. They brought the sick out on the street
 - a. Laying them on beds and couches
 - b. That at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on them
3. A multitude gathered from the cities surrounding Jerusalem
 - a. Bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits
 - b. They were all healed.

QUESTIONS: A-Some people avoided the early Church out of fear. People tend to avoid the Church today through boredom or irrelevance. What do you think of this change?

B- Where does the modern medicine fit in with healing miracles?

III. THE PERSECUTION OF THE APOSTLES (17-42)

A. IMPRISONED, THEN FREED (17-21a)

1. The apostles put into the common prison(with thieves & criminals)with the hope that some mental& physical abuse would soften the apostles up a bit for the next day's hearing!
 - a. By the high priest and those of the sect of the Sadducees
 - b. For they were filled with indignation
2. A jailbreak was arranged by the Lord, courtesy of an angel! The apostles freed by an angel of the Lord
 - a. Who came at night, opened the prison doors, and brought them out.
 - b. Who charged them to return to the temple and speak the Words of life ,which they did, entering the temple in the early morning.

B. ARRESTED AGAIN BEFORE THE COUNCIL (21b-33)

1. The council calls for the apostles to be brought from the prison
 - a. The officers are unable to do so, for the apostles are not there!

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- b. Despite the secure doors, and guards standing outside
2. The council has the apostles brought from the temple
 - a. The council is informed that the apostles are teaching in the temple
 - b. The apostles are brought to the council peacefully, for fear of the people
3. The high priest challenges the apostles
 - a. Were they not strictly commanded to teach in Jesus' name?
 - b. You have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, intending to bring this Man's blood on us!
4. Peter and the apostles respond
 - a. We ought to obey God rather than man
 - b. God has raised Jesus, whom you murdered
 - c. God has exalted Jesus to His right hand
 - 1) To be Prince and Saviour
 - 2) To give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins
 - d. We are witnesses to these things
 - 1) And so is the Holy Spirit
 - 2) Whom God has given to those who obey Him
5. The council's immediate reaction
 - a. They were furious
 - b. They plotted to kill the apostles

C. THE ADVICE OF GAMALIEL (34-39)

1. Gamaliel stands up in the council
 - a. A Pharisee, a teacher of the law
 - b. Held in respect by all the people
 - c. Who commands the apostles be put outside for awhile
2. Gamaliel cautions the council
 - a. To be careful what they do with the apostles
 - b. Remember what happened to Theudas
 - 1) A man claiming to be someone, joined by 400 men
 - 2) He was slain, and those who obeyed him came to nothing
 - c. Remember what happened to Judas of Galilee in the days of the census
 - 1) He drew away many people after him
 - 2) He also perished, and those who obeyed him dispersed
 - d. His advice regarding the apostles: leave them alone
 - 1) If their work is of men, it will come to nothing
 - 2) If it is of God, it cannot be overthrown and you will be fighting against God

D. THE APOSTLES' RELEASED (40-42)

1. The council's decision
 - a. They agree with Gamaliel to let the apostles go
 - b. But first beat them (39 LASHES-Deut.25:3) and command them not to speak in the name of Jesus
2. The apostles' reaction
 - a. They depart rejoicing they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name
 - b. They continued to teach and preach Jesus daily in the temple and in every house.

QUESTIONS:

Why was the early Church different from the Church today? Should we try to change? If so, how?

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REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 5.

- 1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- 2) Who is introduced as having sold a possession? (1)
- 3) What did the husband do? Was the wife aware of it? (2)
- 4) What did Peter charge the husband of doing? In what way? (3)
- 5) Who did Peter say he had lied to? (4)
- 6) What happened when the man heard this? What was the reaction of those who heard? (5)
- 7) How long before the wife came in? Was she aware of what happened? (7)
- 8) Did she attempt to mislead Peter also? (8)
- 9) What did Peter charge her with being guilty of doing? (9)
- 10) What then happened? What was the reaction upon those who heard?
- 11) What was being done by the apostles? (12)
- 12) How did the people regard the apostles? (13)
- 13) Did this hinder the growth of the church? (14)
- 14) What did the believers do? Why? (15)
- 15) Who else were bringing sick people? (16)
- 16) Of those sick and tormented brought to the apostles, who were healed? (16).
- 17) Who was filled with indignation and had the apostles put into custody? (17-18)
- 18) Who freed the apostles during the night? What were they told to do? (19-20)
- 19) What was discovered when the apostles were sent for from prison? (21-23)
- 20) When told that the apostles were teaching in the temple, what did the council do? (24-26)
- 21) What three charges did the high priest make against the apostles? (27-28)
- 22) What was the initial response of Peter and the apostles to these charges? (29)

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- 23) What else did the apostles proclaim on this occasion? (30-32)
- 24) What was the council's initial reaction? What were they planning to do? (33)
- 25) Who in the council stood up? Who was he? What did he command? (34)
- 26) What were his initial words to the council? (35)
- 27) What two examples does he give of 'failed movements'? (36-37)
- 28) What counsel does Gamaliel then offer? Why? (38-39)
- 29) What was the council's response to Gamaliel? Yet what did they still do? (40)
- 30) How did the apostles' respond as they left the council? (41)
- 31) What did the apostles continue to do? Where? (42)

PRAYER POINTS:

- (1) O LORD MY FATHER, MAKE ME PERFECT UNTO YOUR GOOD WORK, IN JESUS NAME.
- (2) MY FATHER (X3) FEED ME WITH THE FOODS OF THE CHAMPIONS TO BOOST MY ENERGY AND BE ABLE TO RUN THE RACE SET BEFORE ME, IN JESUS NAME.
- (3) I RUN INTO THE NAME OF THE LORD WHICH IS A STRONG TOWER AND I AM SAFE, IN JESUS NAME.

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