

The Book of Acts

Chapter 5

Growth of the New Testament Church

Quiz

2

- What religious group in Acts did not believe in the resurrection?
 - Sadducees
- What does it mean, “They put Peter and John in hold?”
 - They held them in custody, probably jail.
- What did Peter say about Jesus that convicted the crowd?
 - YOU killed Him, God raised Him, YOU builders rejected Him, salvation is ONLY in His name
- What is a cornerstone?
 - The main foundation stone of a building

- When men saw the Apostle's boldness what did they perceive?
 - They had been with Jesus
- Men may limit our location for preaching but they cannot limit..
 - Our licence to preach which comes from God.
- What do you remember about the Christian's prayer after being threatened? What did they pray?
 - Exalted God, quoted Bible, identified the problem, asked for boldness
- How can you be filled with the Holy Spirit?
 - Allow Him to control you, confess all sin, walk in the light

The Sin of Ananias & Sapphira, v.1-2

4

- Ananias and Sapphira, Christians in the church sold land.
- They agreed to keep back part of the profit for themselves.
 - Selling the land was totally voluntary
 - After it was sold, giving it was voluntary
 - The **sin** here is that they agreed to tell everyone that they were giving all that they had gained from the sale when in reality they were keeping back some for themselves.

Peter Confronted Ananias, v.3-6

5

- The Holy Spirit revealed to Peter Ananias' deceit.
- Peter said that Satan filled his heart to lie to the **Holy Spirit**.
- Peter clarified Ananias' rights over the land, v.4
 - Before it was sold, it was yours.
 - After it was sold, it was yours.
 - Claiming to give it all to God was a lie to **God** and a wicked sin.
- Ananias dropped dead, causing great fear, v.5
- Young men promptly buried him, v.6

Peter Confronted Sapphira, v.7-11

6

- Ignorant of this, three hours later Sapphira came in, v.7
 - We do not know how she remained ignorant of her husband's death.
- Peter asked her if they sold the land for so much?, v.8
 - She agreed that they had.
- He rebuked her for agreeing together to tempt the Holy Spirit.
- She fell down dead and the young men buried her, v.10
- This event caused GREAT fear upon all the church and on all who heard of it.
 - **Pride was at the root of their sin!**

Miracles and Church Growth, v.12-14

7

- God worked many signs and wonders by the apostles
 - These were miracles to authenticate Christianity.
 - Christians were united in doctrine and practice
 - They gathered in Solomon's porch
 - The “rest” (v.13) probably refers to unbelievers present that did not require healing.
- The people magnified the apostles, v.13
- Multitudes of believers were added to the congregation, v.14

Many Sick were Healed, v.15-16

8

- News of the healings quickly spread.
- Many Jerusalem residents brought their sick, trusting that even the shadow of Peter on them may heal them.
- Multitudes came from cities around Jerusalem bringing their sick to be healed.
 - God saw fit to heal every one of them, v.16
- God was mightily at work!

The Apostles were Arrested, v.17-18

9

- Not everyone was rejoicing. The high priest and his buddies among the Sadducees were angry.
 - Were they angry with the healings? They were likely more angry with the authenticating power of the miracles.
 - They were jealous and hateful that they were preaching Jesus Christ.
- They grabbed the Apostles and put them in the common (i.e. public) prison.

An Angel Delivered the Apostles, v.19-20

10

- An angel of the Lord came during the night and opened the prison (lit. guarded) doors.
- He led them out of the prison.
- Note carefully what he said to the Apostles, v.20
 - Go
 - Stand and speak (lit. standing speak)
 - In the temple
 - To the people
 - All the words of this life (new life in Christ, eternal life)

More Preaching & Confusion, v.21-24

11

- Having heard, they obeyed. **That is our need today!**
- They entered the temple early in the morning and taught.
- The high priest gathered the council and senate (elders)
- They ordered that the Apostles be brought from prison.
- They were not found in the prison, v.22-23
 - The prison was shut securely. **Our God is amazing!**
- This news greatly perplexed the religious leaders, v.24
 - What would this lead to?

Arrested Again, v.25-28

12

- News came that the Apostles were teaching in the temple! 😊
- The (temple) captain and his officers (servants) brought them without violence (force), v.26
 - You can be sure the captain and his officers were very gentle.
 - They feared being stoned to death by the people.
 - The Apostles did not ask the people for help. *That was a fleshly option.*
- The high priest questioned them, v.27-28
 - Did we not command you not to teach in Jesus' name?
 - You have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine and blame on us.

Testimony Before the Council, v.29-32

13

- Peter and the apostles said, “**We ought to obey God rather than men.**” Then they preached the Gospel to them.
 - You slew (lit. laid hands on to kill) Jesus and hanged Him on a tree
 - God raised Jesus from the dead
 - God exalted Him with (or to) His right hand a Prince and Saviour
 - To give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel
 - We are witnesses of these things, v.32
 - The Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him is also witness of these things, v.32 (**Compare John 16:7-11**)

Gamaliel's Calming Advice, v.33-39

14

- The leaders discussed killing them, v.33
- A Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, spoke up
 - It is significant that he was a Pharisee not a Sadducee.
 - He sent the Apostles out and had a calming talk
 - He reminded them of previous rebels and their end, v.36-37
 - He said that if this was of men, they too would perish, v.38
 - He wisely notes that if this was of God, they could not overthrow it.
 - No man can fight against God and win!
 - That was true then and it is still true in our lives today!
 - We must be careful to always obey God in every area of our lives.

Apostles Beaten and Rejoicing, v.40-42

15

- The religious leaders agreed with Gamaliel.
 - They called in the Apostles
 - They **beat** them. The word means “to skin, flay, to beat or scourge so as to take off the skin.” ^{Zodhiates} This may have been “forty stripes minus one,” as in **2Cor 11:24**. ^{Schneider}
 - They commanded them again not to speak in the name of Jesus.
 - They departed rejoicing that they could suffer for Christ, v.41
- They continued to teach and preach Jesus Christ
 - Daily **publically** in the temple and **privately** in every house
 - They continued to obey God rather than man! **Powerful examples!**

Applications for us today

16

- Lying about our devotion to the Lord is a very serious sin.
 - God knows our hearts!
- Pride was at the root of Ananias & Sapphira's sin. God hates pride.
 - We must guard our motives for serving the Lord. Serving to be seen is sin.
- When Christians are united in doctrine and practice God is able to bless and save souls.
- If we are faithfully witnessing for the Lord, we must expect that not everyone is going to like it.
- The Apostle's motto, "We must obey God rather than men," ought to be our motto as well.
- We must not forget that God is in control. He allowed beatings but He did not allow their deaths.
 - God is in control today as well.