

ACTS – The Spread of the Message

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[Grace Chapel](#)

Review:

- A. Peter and John are Arrested for Preaching Resurrection through Jesus, Acts 4:1-31
 - 1. They stood before all the leaders of Israel
 - 2. The Holy Spirit filled them so they could respond correctly
 - 3. Peter presents the gospel to the leaders of Israel
 - i. Jesus Christ, whom you crucified, God raised from the dead
 - ii. There is no other name under heaven by which you must be saved
 - 4. A request for boldness by the saints to God
- B. The Early Church, Acts 4:32 – 5:16
 - 1. They shared all of their possessions
 - 2. Lying to the Holy Spirit
 - i. Ananias and Sapphira
 - ii. Fear of the people
 - 3. The favor of the people
 - 4. Many signs and wonder

- I. **The High Priest is Unable to Stop the Message, Acts 5:17-42**
 - A. The Jealousy of the High Priest and his associates, Acts 5:17, 18
 - 1. The High Priest (Caiaphas?)
 - 2. He is of the Sadducees
 - 3. Their Jealousy filled up their minds (Mental Control)
 - 4. The Apostles are put into the public prison
 - B. God frees the Apostles, Acts 5:19, 20
 - 1. During the night an angel from the Lord opened the prison gates
 - 2. The Apostles are instructed to stand in the temple and speak all the utterances of this life to the people
 - 3. At daybreak the Apostles entered the temple and began teaching
 - C. The entire Council is called together, Acts 5:21-42
 - 1. The Sanhedrin with the senate

2. The High Priest sends for the Apostles
3. The servants did not find the Apostles in the prison
 - i. They reported this to the council
 - ii. The prison was locked securely but no one was inside
4. The High Priest and Commander of the temple were perplexed by the news
5. The Council is told that the Apostles are teaching in the Temple
6. The Apostles are brought before the Council
 - i. The officers brought them without violence because of their fear for the people
 - ii. They feared being stoned by the people
7. The High Priest questions the Apostles
 - i. The Apostles were commanded not to teach concerning this name
 - ii. You have filled all of Jerusalem with this doctrine (to be learned and practiced)
 - iii. You determine to bring the blood of this man upon us
 - iv. Peter's response to the High Priest
 - a. It is necessary to obey God rather than man
 - b. You put Jesus to death on a cross
 - c. God raised Him from the dead
 - d. God exalted Him to His right hand
 - 1) He is the Prince and Savior
 - 2) To give repentance to Israel and the forgiveness of sins
 - e. We are witness to these individual utterances
 - f. God has given the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him
 - v. Gamaliel Instructs the Council, Acts 5:33-39
 - a. The words of the Apostles cut through the council
 - b. The council determined to put them to death
 - c. Gamaliel warns the council
 - 1) He was a Pharisee and a teacher of the law
 - 2) He was of great reputation with the people
 - 3) He commanded that the Apostles be removed for a little bit
 - 4) He cautions the council
 - i). If this is not from God it will go away
 - ii). If it is from God you will not be able to overthrow it

- d. The council takes Gamaliel's advice
- vi. The Apostles are flogged and released
- vii. The Apostles leave the council rejoicing
 - a. They were counted worthy to suffer for the name of Christ
 - b. They continued teaching

II. The First Deacons, Acts 6:1-7

- A. A murmur arose among the Greeks against the Hebrews - The widows of the Greeks were being neglected in the daily serving
- B. The response of the Apostles
 - 1. It is not desirable for us to leave the Word of God for serving tables
 - 2. Select seven men
 - i. Out from you
 - ii. Who have a good reputation (witness)
 - iii. Filled by the Holy Spirit
 - iv. Set them over these needs
 - 3. We will continue in the ministry of the Word
- C. The Position of a Deacon
 - 1. The Position of Authority within the Church is reserved for males only, 1 Timothy 3:8-13
 - 2. The Spiritual gift is given to both male and female, Romans 12:7; 16:1
 - 3. Deacon is also used of one who serves, Colossians 4:7
- D. The seven are chosen by the congregation
 - 1. The seven were brought before the Apostles
 - 2. As the leaders of the Church the Apostles approve the seven
- E. The Word continued to increase
 - 1. The disciples continued to greatly multiply
 - 2. Many from the priests were obedient to the faith

Conclusion:

- A. God's Protection for the Apostles
- B. The Message cannot be stopped
- C. The Apostles are given boldness
- D. The Selection of deacons by the Church