

“Set Free To Testify To New Life!”

Acts 5:17-32

Then the High Priest (Caiaphas) rose up, and All Those who were with Him (which is the Sect of the Sadducees), and They were Filled with Indignation, and Laid Their Hands On the Apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night An Angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought Them (Apostles) outside, and commanded, “Go, Stand in the Temple and Speak to the People All the Words of This Life (New Life)!” And when They (Apostles) heard the command, They (Apostles) Entered the Temple Early in the Morning and Taught (The People). But the High Priest (Caiaphas) and Those with Him came and called the Council (Sanhedrin) together, with all the Elders (100) of the Children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have Them (Apostles) brought out. But when the Officers came and did not find Them (Apostles) in the prison, They returned and reported, saying, “Indeed we found the prison shut securely, and the guards standing outside before the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside!” Now when the High Priest (Caiaphas), the Captain of the Temple, and the Chief Priests heard these things, They wondered what the outcome would be. So, one came and told them, saying, “Look, the Men Whom you put in prison are Standing in the Temple and Teaching the People!” Then the Captain of the Temple went with the Officers and brought Them (Apostles) without violence, For They Feared the People, Lest They Should Be Stoned. And when They (Religious Authorities) had brought Them (Apostles), They set Them (Apostles) before the Council (Sanhedrin). And the High Priest (Caiaphas) asked Them (Apostles), saying, “Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this Name? And look, You Have Filled Jerusalem with Your Doctrine, & Intend to Bring this Man's Blood On Us!” But Peter and the Other Apostles answered and said (In Unison): “We ought to Obey God rather than men! The God of Our Fathers Raised Up Jesus Whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him, God Has Exalted to His Right Hand to Be Prince and Savior, to Give Repentance to Israel and Forgiveness of Sins. And We Are His Witnesses to These Things, and so also is the Holy Spirit Whom God Has Given to Those Who Obey Him.”

Acts 5:17-32 (NKJV)

Q: “Why Were The Religious Authorities Filled With Indignation Toward The Apostles?”

A: “And Through the Hands of the Apostles Many Signs and Wonders Were Done Among the People ... And Believers Were Increasingly Added to the Lord, Multitudes of Both Men and Women, so that they Brought the Sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, ... a Multitude gathered from the Surrounding Cities To Jerusalem, Bringing the Sick and Those Who Were Tormented By Unclean Spirits, and They Were All Healed!”

Acts 5:12a, 14-15a, &16

Q: “What Do You Do When You Are Persecuted, Threatened, & Even Imprisoned For Your Faith, & For Your Witness To The Lord Jesus Christ?”

A: You Keep The Faith, You Endure, You Pray, & You Wait For God To Act!

“But at night An Angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought Them (Apostles) outside.” **Acts 5:19**

A: Then You Wait For His Next Command - And You Immediately Obey!

Then He Commanded, “Go, Stand in the Temple and Speak to the People All the Words of This Life (New Life)!” And when They (Apostles) heard the command, They (Apostles) Entered the Temple Early in the Morning and Taught (The People).” **Acts 5:20-21a**

Q: *“What Will Be The Outcome If You Disobey Man: Government, Authorities, Those Who Claim To Be Christians - But Have No Substance, No Fruit, & Love This World?”*

A: They Will Threaten You, Persecute You, & Try To Guilt & Shame You!

And when **They (Religious Authorities)** had brought **Them (Apostles)**, They set **Them (Apostles)** before the **Council (Sanhedrin)**. And the **High Priest (Caiaphas)** asked **Them (Apostles)**, saying, *“Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this Name? And look, You Have Filled Jerusalem with Your Doctrine, and Intend to Bring this Man's Blood On Us!”* **Acts 5:27-28**

Q: *“What Should Be Your Response To The World & The People Of The World?”*

A: Respond To Their Accusations & Threats With REASON & TRUTH!

But **Peter** and the **Other Apostles** answered and said (In Unison): *“We ought to Obey God rather than men!”* **Acts 5:29**

A: Respond Also With CONVICTION & PROPHECY!

To Convict Their Hearts & Minds - In Order To Offer Repentance & Salvation!

“The God of Our Fathers Raised Up Jesus Whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him, God Has Exalted to His Right Hand to Be Prince and Savior, to Give Repentance to Israel and Forgiveness of Sins.” **Acts 5:30-31**

A: Respond That Your Identity Is Found In Christ – As His Follower & Witness.

Tell Them The Power Of God Within You Comes From God’s Spirit Who Speaks Through You, Who Was Given As A Gift To You – Because You Obey God, Rather Than Man!

“And We Are His Witnesses to These Things, and so also is the Holy Spirit Whom God Has Given to Those Who Obey Him.” **Acts 5:32**

Q: *“So, What Will You Do, What Will I Do, As The Days Grow Ever Darker, And Man: Governments, Institutions, Education, Employers, & Even Most Churches; Become Ever More Entangled In The World & Take Over Control Of The World?”*

A: We Will Be A People Living As 1st Century Christians In The 21st Century!

“For They Were A People Like Us – They Were Set Free From Sin & Death To Testify To The Son of God Who Set Them Free!”

A: We Will As A Free People:

- 1) Trust In God Alone – Not This World
- 2) Trust In One Another As We Are Faithful To God & In Unity With One Another
- 3) Pray & Have Faith In God To Provide, Protect, & To Sustain Us
- 4) Pray For Miracles – Signs & Wonders To Be Our Witness From Heaven
- 5) Pray For Boldness, Conviction, & Power From God The Holy Spirit Living Within Us
- 6) Endure Any & All Persecution For God’s Name & His Glory
- 7) Testify & Witness To God As Our Only Answer Now & Forever
- 8) Prophecy – Preach & Teach The Only TRUTH – The GOOD NEWS
- 9) Convict, Offer Repentance & Salvation In The Name Of Jesus Christ Our Lord Alone
- 10) Mentor & Befriend Those Seeking God In Their Lives
- 11) Serve The Broken & The Hurting In Jesus’ Name
- 12) Be Patient & Wait - Continually In Praise & Worship Of Our Coming King

**Let Us Pray & Renew Our Faith & Commitments
As A Free People To Our God Today!**