

10—Failing to Silence the Apostles

Acts 5:17-42

1. According to Acts 5:14, what kind of success were the apostles having with their resurrection message? What particular Jewish sect does this anger? Why would it specifically have bothered them?
2. In Acts 4, Peter and John are arrested. Yet, who is arrested in Acts 5:18 and what kind of impact might this have had upon the church as they discovered this news?
3. Interestingly, what happens to the apostles in the night as they are in prison (Acts 5:19-21)? When the officers come looking for them what do they discover (5:22-25)? How would this have impacted their intentions (5:26)?
4. Despite the public pressure the Sanhedrin is now facing (v. 26), what complaint do they still lodge against the apostles (Acts 5:27-28)?
5. What principle is laid out by the apostles in Acts 5:29 as to why they have disobeyed the Sanhedrin's orders? What is it God has displayed in their presence which backs up this conviction (Acts 5:30-32)?

Three Gamaliel's in the Bible

Gamaliel. Personal name meaning, "God rewards with good."

1. The son of Pedahzur; a leader of the tribe of Manasseh, who helped Moses take the census in the wilderness (Numbers 1:10). Compare Numbers 7:54-59 .
- 2 . A highly regarded Pharisee who was a member of the Sanhedrin (Acts 5:34). He squelched a plan by the Sanhedrin to kill the apostles by reminding the members that interference with what the apostles were doing might prove to be opposition to God. If the work of the apostles were a purely human work, Gamaliel said, it would come to nothing anyway. According to Acts 22:3 , this Gamaliel had been Paul's teacher. He was the grandson of the great Rabbi Hillel. He died about A.D. 52.
3. A leading Jewish rabbi in the late first and early second centuries A.D. He was the grandson of the Gamaliel mentioned in the Book of Acts. He is credited with many of the adaptations in Judaism necessitated by the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70. (*Holman Bible Dictionary*).

Sunday AM Bible Study (03.07.2021)

6. How did the “council” respond to the disobedience of the apostles (Acts 5:33)? Who steps forward from among the council to calm down his angry colleagues (5:34)? What else do you know about this man?

7. What does Gamaliel say to persuade the Sanhedrin to back off? What two recently historic uprisings does he mention and what were the consequences of those earthly-motivated movements (Acts 5:35-38)?

8. Despite those failures, what does Gamaliel admit could be the result of this movement, if it is of God (5:39)?

9. Despite the lack of evidence, what does the council still do to the apostles before they are reprimanded and released (5:40)? What kinds of persecution might we face from the world if we speak out for Jesus?

10. Why are the apostles rejoicing in Acts 5:41? Do the threats of this government council stop them (5:42)? For what reasons would a Christian view these circumstances as a reason to rejoice (see also 1 Peter 4:13-16)?