

Week 9—Acts 5:12-42 (for Sunday, March 1)

Begin each day of your study by asking the LORD to speak to you through His Word.

Day 1

1. Read Acts 5:12-16. How did the public regard the believers and why? Is this relevant to the church today? How so, or why not?

2. Why did many of them “not dare to join them” (v. 13; *hint: see previous section*)? What can that teach us about what it might mean to follow Jesus wholeheartedly?

3. Do you think Peter’s shadow had magical qualities? If not, what is this suggesting? How is it similar to Matthew 9:20-22?

Day 2

1. Read Acts 5:17-28. What are the motivations for the Sanhedrin to arrest the apostles (vv. 17, 28)? Are you ever tempted toward a similar reaction? When?

Guilty of this man’s blood—The Sanhedrin had condemned Jesus to death for blasphemy so if He really was Messiah and innocent as the apostles keep saying, they would be guilty of condemning an innocent man to death. This is why it is a big deal for them and why they want to protect their innocence at all costs.

2. How does the angel want the apostles to describe the gospel in v. 20? How would you explain the gospel as “new life” to someone?

3. What do the following verses add to our understanding of “this new life?”

John 6:68-69—

Romans 6:3-7—

2 Corinthians 5:14-21—

Philippians 1:21—

Using these verses, take time to thank Jesus for the new life He has given to you!

Day 3

1. *Read Acts 5:29-40.* What do you learn about obeying human authority and obeying divine authority in this passage? When might we be faced with a situation like this in our day and age?

2. Peter said that the disciples *and* the Holy Spirit were *both* witnesses to Jesus’ crucifixion, resurrection, and exaltation (vv. 31-32). How were the disciples testifying to these facts (see 5:12-16, 21)? How was the Holy Spirit witnessing to Jesus’ identity?

3. What is our role and the Holy Spirit’s role when it comes to witnessing today? Where are you seeing this in your own life?

Day 4

1. *Read Acts 5:29-40.* Explain in your own words what Peter says about Jesus in v. 31. How is He your Prince and Savior? How can you treat Him like this?

2. To whom does God give the Holy Spirit (see 5:32)? How is this relevant to us? How does John 14:15 and 1 John 1:3-6 speak to this?

3. Do you find anything ironic about Gamaliel's speech in vv. 35-39? How does his speech speak to the bigger theme of the entire book of Acts?

Gamaliel—He was the leader of the more moderate of the two schools of the Pharisees and was the most renowned rabbi of his day. One of his students was Saul, later to be known as the Apostle Paul (cf. Acts 22:2-3).

Day 5

1. *Read Acts 5:41-42.* How did the apostles respond to their suffering? Is that how you would have responded? Why or why not?

Flogged—The punishment of taking a whip to a person's back. The Romans included bones and other sharp objects (cf. Jesus' flogging), but evidence suggests the Jews were more humane. Jewish law prohibited more than 40 lashes, but it still caused tremendous pain and possibly even death. The apostles are flogged here as a warning to not to continue to go against the Sanhedrin's authority.

2. W
for Jesus?

3. We want to make sure we keep the big picture of Acts in mind, so how has God acted to accomplish His ends in 1:1-5:42? How is He still accomplishing them today?

Conclusion

1. What most stood out to you as you studied Acts 5:12-42 this week? *Why* do you think this was the case?

2. What is the Holy Spirit prompting you to *do* as a result of this? Be prepared to share with your group!