



Lesson 7 – Before the Sanhedrin

Based on Acts 5:12-42

1) What Words did Jesus leave with His Disciples?

Matthew 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: _____ them to _____ all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

It was the cross, that instrument of shame and torture, which brought hope and salvation to the world. The disciples were but humble men, without wealth, and with no weapon but the word of God; yet in Christ's strength they went forth to tell the wonderful story of the manger and the cross, and to triumph over all opposition. Without earthly honor or recognition, they were heroes of faith. From their lips came words of divine eloquence that shook the world.

2) What was happening in Jerusalem?

Acts 5:12 And by the hands of the apostles were many _____ and _____ wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

3) Was the Word getting out?

Acts 5:14-16 And believers were the more added to the Lord, _____ both of men and women.) Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were _____ every one.

In Jerusalem, where the deepest prejudice existed, and where the most confused ideas prevailed in regard to Him who had been crucified as a malefactor, the disciples continued to speak with boldness the words of life, setting before the Jews the work and mission of Christ, His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Priests and rulers heard with amazement the clear, bold testimony of the apostles. The power of the risen Saviour had indeed fallen on the disciples, and their work was accompanied by signs and miracles that daily increased the number of believers.

4) What did the leaders do finally to try to stop the Disciples?

Acts 5:17-18 Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with _____, And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common _____.

The priests and rulers saw that Christ was extolled above them. As the Sadducees, who did not believe in a resurrection, heard the apostles declaring that Christ had risen from the dead, they were enraged, realizing that if the apostles were allowed to preach a risen Saviour, and to work miracles in His name, the doctrine that there would be no resurrection would be rejected by all, and the sect of the Sadducees would soon become extinct. The Pharisees were angry as they perceived that the tendency of the disciples' teaching was to undermine the Jewish ceremonies and make the sacrificial offerings of no effect.



5) What had Jesus warned them about in the past?

John 15:20-21 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not _____ than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also _____ you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

John 16:2-4 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will _____ that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not _____ the Father, nor me. But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may _____ that I told you of them...

The leaders in the Jewish nation had signally failed of fulfilling God's purpose for His chosen people. Those whom the Lord had made the depositaries of truth had proved unfaithful to their trust, and God chose others to do His work. In their blindness these leaders now gave full sway to what they called righteous indignation against the ones who were setting aside their cherished doctrines.

6) What did the Angel of the Lord do for John and Peter?

Acts 5:19-20 But the angel of the Lord by night _____ the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, Go, stand and _____ in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

The God of heaven, the mighty Ruler of the universe, took the matter of the imprisonment of the disciples into His own hands, for men were warring against His work. By night the angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and bid them to speak again in the Temple. This command was directly contrary to the order given by the Jewish rulers

7) What did they do?

Acts 5:21 And when they heard that, they entered into the _____ early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

8) What did the Sanhedrin do so they could begin the Disciples trial?

Acts 5:22-23 But when the officers came, and found them not in the _____, they returned, and told, Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all _____, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within.

9) What word finally came about their whereabouts?

Acts 5:25 Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and _____ the people.

10) How did the Council feel about all this?

Acts 5:24 Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow.

Peter and John appeared among the believers and recounted how the angel had led them directly through the band of soldiers guarding the prison, bidding them resume the work that had been interrupted, the brethren were filled with amazement and joy.



The priests and rulers had decided to fix upon the disciples the charge of insurrection, to accuse them of murdering Ananias and Sapphira, and of conspiring to deprive the priests of their authority. They hoped so to excite the mob that it would take the matter in hand and deal with the disciples as it had dealt with Jesus. They were aware that many who did not accept the teachings of Christ were weary of the arbitrary rule of the Jewish authorities and anxious for some change. The priests feared that if these dissatisfied ones were to accept the truths proclaimed by the apostles, and were to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, the anger of the entire people would be raised against the religious leaders, who would then be made to answer for the murder of Christ. They decided to take strong measures to prevent this.

11) What did the Council have done?

Act 5:26 Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them _____
_____ : for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.

12) What Words of Christ came into the Disciples' remembrance?

Mark 13:9 But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to
_____ ; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought
before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.

Although the apostles were miraculously delivered from prison, they were not safe from examination and punishment. By sending an angel to deliver them, God had given them a token of His love and an assurance of His presence. It was now their part to suffer for the sake of the One whose gospel they were preaching.

13) What did the Council ask them?

Acts 5:27-28 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council:
and the high priest asked them, Saying, Did not we straitly _____ you that
ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your
doctrine, and intend to bring this man's _____ upon us.

14) What was Peter's reply?

Acts 5:29-32 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to
obey _____ rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye
slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince
and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. And we are
his _____ of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath
given to them that _____ him.

The record left by Peter and John is as heroic as any in the gospel dispensation. As they stood for the second time before the men who seemed bent on their destruction, no fear or hesitation could be discerned in their words or attitude.

15) Was the Council happy with what they said?

Acts 5:33 When they heard that, they were cut to the _____, and took
counsel to _____ them.

So enraged were the Jews at these words that they decided to take the law into their own hands and without further trial, or without authority from the Roman officers, to put the prisoners to death. Already guilty of the blood of Christ, they were now eager to stain their hands with the blood of His disciples.



16) What did one of those present do in the Council room?

Acts 5:34-35 Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named _____, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space; And said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take _____ to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men.

in the council there was one man who recognized the voice of God in the words spoken by the disciples. This was Gamaliel, a Pharisee of good reputation and a man of learning and high position. His clear intellect saw that the violent step contemplated by the priests would lead to terrible consequences.

17) What sage advice did he give them?

Acts 5:38-39 And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of _____, it will come to _____: But if it be of _____, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to _____ God.

18) What was the decision of the Council?

Acts 5:40 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and _____ them, they commanded that they should not _____ in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

19) Did the Disciples stop preaching Christ?

Acts 5:41-42 And they departed from the presence of the council, _____ that they were counted _____ to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

20) What did Jesus tell the Disciples (and us)?

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my _____ I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be _____.

The history of truth has ever been the record of a struggle between right and wrong. The proclamation of the gospel has ever been carried forward in this world in the face of opposition, peril, loss, and suffering.

21) What promise should we never forget?

Isaiah 41:10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not _____; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will _____ thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Can you see God's watch care?

Do you want to be fearless?

When is the time to step up?