

Power to Witness in Word and Deed

The Book of Acts

Acts 5:17–42

Review Acts 5:12–16. Read Acts 5:17–42.

1. The Sadducees' jealousy is not merely envy of the disciples' popularity; it also contains elements of a "fervent but misguided" zeal for God's honor.¹ What does this jealousy lead them to do? (v. 18)

2. What unexpected event follows the apostles' imprisonment? (v. 19)

3. The angel commands the apostles to go to the temple courts and continue to teach and preach. Why do you think the angel refers to the gospel as "the full message of this new life" (v. 20)? (Lk. 18:29–30; Jn. 8:12; 10:10b, 28)

4. In what almost comical situation do the religious leaders find themselves? (vv. 21b–25)

5. How do the officers of the temple guard treat the apostles, and why? (v. 26)

6. What does the high priest accuse the apostles of? (v. 28)

7. The high priest commanded the apostles "not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus" (4:18).
 - a. What would obeying this command mean for the apostles? (v. 29; 4:19)

 - b. How have you felt intimidated when you have had the opportunity to share your faith?

¹ William J. Larkin, *Acts*, Cornerstone Biblical Commentary (Carol Stream: Tyndale, 2006), 421.

8. In answer to the high priest's accusations, the apostles give a brief speech that presents the central truths of their preaching so far in Acts. Fill in these truths in the table below.

Verses	Truths
v. 30b (📖* 2:23; 3:13b–15a; 4:10)	
v. 30a (📖 2:24, 32; 3:15; 4:10)	
v. 31a (📖 2:33, 36)	
v. 31b (📖 2:38a; 3:19; 4:12)	
v. 32 (📖 2:16–17, 33, 38b)	

9. In verse 30, the apostles refer to God as “the God of our fathers.” Why do you think they emphasize this? (📖 3:13a)
10. We often think that we repent and God forgives, but verse 31 says that both repentance and forgiveness come from God. (📖 11:18) Why is this significant? (Titus 3:3–5a)
11. Why do you think the apostles' little speech makes the Sanhedrin so murderously angry?
12. How does Gamaliel persuade the Sanhedrin to leave the apostles alone? (vv. 38–39)
13. The apostles have been imprisoned, tried, and flogged, yet they leave rejoicing. How do they then spend their freedom? (v. 42)
14. Notice how the gospel the apostles preach centers on who Jesus is (see verse 42 and the chart above). Why must Jesus always be the center of our gospel message, even two thousand years later?