



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Triumph over Tyranny: Angel Directed Disobedience!

MAY 14-16, 2014

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Acts 5:12-23

“And through the hands of the Apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon’s Porch. 13) Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. 14) And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, 15) so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. 16) Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. 17) Then the high priest rose up and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, 18) and laid their hands on the Apostles and put them in the common prison. 19) But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 20) ‘Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.’ 21) And when they heard that, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught. But the high priest and those with him came and called the council together, with all the elders of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. 22) But when the officers came and did not find them in the prison, they returned and reported, 23) 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!” (NKJV)

Where could the 5000 men of the Church and their families meet for worship every day? How could that many people stay in perfect agreement? Who are “*the rest*” who dared not join the Church? How are they now fulfilling the next phase of Acts 1:8? Who is the most popular person in Jerusalem at this time? Why were the Apostles set free from prison?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- MAY 21-23: ACTS 5:24-33 TRIUMPH OVER TYRANNY: OBEYING GOD RATHER THAN MEN
- MAY 28-30: ACTS 5:34-42 TRIUMPH OVER TYRANNY: FIGHTING AGAINST GOD?

The explosive growth of the early Church was now becoming more and more challenging for the Apostles. From that initial group meeting for prayer, God had blessed so abundantly through the work of the Holy Spirit that the number of the believers and the continued growth in their breadth of ministry was becoming overwhelming! Word had gotten out from the Capital, not only about the sin and immediate death of Ananias and Sapphira, but also the healing ministry of the Apostles, and especially Peter, who granted immediate and complete recovery to everyone who came to them, no matter what the affliction! The excitement and growth continued to accelerate through their prayer, preaching, passionate love and provision, purity and perfect unity!

“THEIR PERSECUTIONS, THEIR PREACHING, AND THE JUDGMENT OF GOD, ALL TENDED TO IMPRESS THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE, AND LEAD THEM TO THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.” ALBERT BARNES

“THE CHURCH’S PRIMARY GOAL IS EVANGELISM. IT IS TO CARRY ON THE WORK BEGUN BY JESUS CHRIST, WHOSE MISSION WAS ‘TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THAT WHICH WAS LOST’ (LUKE 19:10). THAT IS THE ONLY DUTY OF THE CHURCH THAT CAN’T BE DONE IN HEAVEN.” MACARTHUR

I. THE DARING DOMINATION ACTS 5:12-14

The response to the persecution following Peter healing the lame man in the Temple was prayer, asking the Lord for great boldness to speak God’s Word and “*by stretching*

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 12:30AM – WOODBRIDGE – BOB EVANS, 13900 NOBLEWOOD PLAZA

THURSDAY @ 7:30AM – BIBLE STUDY – CHESTER – SHONEY’S AT RT. 10 (IRON BRIDGE ROAD) & 301(12531 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY)

FRIDAY @ 7:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY – NORFOLK – GOLDEN CORRAL, 6103 N. MILITARY HWY, NEAR THE NORFOLK AIRPORT

Virginia

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out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your Holy Servant Jesus" (Acts 4:29-30). That prayer meeting was immediately answered with an earthquake, a greater filling of the Holy Spirit and greater boldness (4:31). Their love accelerated to the degree that all these repentant Jews considered private ownership of all they had, irrelevant, in their intense desire and action to meet one another's needs. Barnabas even sold his land and gave all the proceeds to the Apostles. Ananias and Sapphira were seeking to deceive everyone into thinking they were giving everything from their sale of property, but were never given the opportunity to deceive again when they were immediately disciplined with death. The explosive growth made only the best place sufficient to accommodate the entire congregation, Solomon's Porch in the Temple. "Of the rest" of the deceivers in Jerusalem like the wealthy Ananias and Sapphira, not one "dared to be joined to them." Yet God gave the Apostles such honor that "multitudes of men and women," became "believers," and "were increasingly added to the Lord." Suddenly the Church now dominated the most important place in the Capital!

"FROM THAT TIME ON THE CHURCH GREW TOO RAPIDLY TO KEEP COUNT." JOHN MACARTHUR

II. THE DEBILITATED DELIVERED ACTS 5:15-16

The accelerating growth of the Church was having such an impact that phase two of their commission in Acts 1:8 began to develop automatically. Literally, "A multitude continually gathered from the surrounding cities ("all Judea") to Jerusalem, constantly bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and continually they were all healed." Like Christ and unlike healers today, not a single case ever escaped deliverance from their affliction! The Apostles, especially Peter, became so popular that literally "they constantly brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and mats, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them." Busy Peter, the chosen leader

of the Church, to use his time most efficiently in healing all the sick as he traveled from place to place, his itinerary had to be determined beforehand so that they would know what streets to line with the afflicted as well as what side of the street would best acquire his shadow. The wealthy and poor, known by their "beds and mats," were treated equally and restored to perfect health!

"YOU ARE PETER, AND ON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH, AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT." MATTHEW 16:18

III. THE DOUBLE DISOBEDIENCE ACTS 5:17-23

Because the Congress of Israel had "commanded them not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus" (Acts 4:18) and all was done in the name of Jesus, "the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation" (the "high priest" had the highest office and the "Sadducees" were the liberal party in control and literally "indignation" also means "jealousy"). In a violent manner they actually "threw their hands on the Apostles and publically put them in prison." Later, "they plotted to kill them" (Acts 5:33). "But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 'Go, take your stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.'" The Apostles listened, disobeying their leaders again: "they entered the temple early in the morning and taught." The Congress of Israel convening again and uniquely including the senior local legislators, they literally "sent to the place of bondage to have them brought out," implying they had been bound with shackles and chains. Finding no one, they literally said, "We found the place of bondage locked with all security and the guards having stood at the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside!" God had decided His Word would prevail!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) In your prayers do you ask God for boldness to be a witness for Jesus Christ to others?
- 2) Do you use your time most efficiently in the best way to serve others for His Kingdom?
- 3) Are you willing to "take your stand" and "speak to the people all the words of this life"?