

Message 5
PROBLEMS Will Come – Part I
Acts 4:32-8:3

Key Verse: *But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: We ought to obey God rather than men – Acts 5:29*

Outline: I. The ministry of the Apostles in **Jerusalem**, Judea, and Samaria
– Acts 1-12 (Highlighted through the life of Peter)

3A. **PROBLEMS** Will Come – Acts 4:32-8:3

1B. The **ABUNDANT** Grace of God – Acts 4:32-37; Eph. 2:8-10

1C. The **UNITY** of all believers – 32

2C. The grace of God was **UPON** them all – 33-37

1D. God **LAVISHED** His grace upon his people – 33

2D. None **LACKED** one need – 34

3D. Saints **LAI**D their money at the apostles' feet – 35-37

Note: the biblical perspective on possession is outstanding, encouraging, and convicting. The givers did not decide where the money would go or to whom it would go; the apostles were accountable to distribute the finances according to the direction of the Holy Spirit. The apostles distinguished between *needs* with *wants*.

2B. Our **ACCOUNTABILITY** to God – Acts 5:1-11

1C. **UNREPENTANT** sin – 1-3

1D. The **LU**ST for recognition – 1-2

Note: the thirst for recognition is in diametric opposition to the thirst for God – Psalm 63. How often I have thirsted to be important instead of seeking to glorify Jesus – Lord forgive me and change me by your grace.

2D. **LYING** to the Holy Spirit – 3

Note: pride destroys people; it kills us – Pro. 16:18.

2C. **UNPREDICTABLE** consequences – 4-11

1D. The **LOSS** of life – 4-6

Note: there is a great need for faithful young men in the body of Christ to be trained by faithful older, mature men – 2 Tim. 2:2.

2D. A **LEGACY** of shame – 7-11

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Note: Ananias and Sapphira are identified by name – their infamy is eternally enshrined in the pages of Holy Writ. This serves as a severe warning to all of us who seek recognition and self-exaltation in place of seeking to glorify the Lord of glory – Gal. 5:26

3B. The apostles are **ARRESTED** again – Acts 5:12-42

1C. **UNUSUAL** miracles – 5:12-16

Note: demons, too, can be responsible for sickness but not always – Lk. 13:16; Matt. 9:33

2C. **UNCOMPROMISING** faith in Jesus Christ and His Word – 17-42

1D. The **ENVY** of the Sadducees – 17

2D. The apostles' **ESCAPE** from jail – 18-21a (an open door) Acts 16:26; 1 Cor. 16:9; 2 Cor. 2:12; Col. 4:3; Rev. 3:7 (no one can close a door the Lord has opened)

3D. The Sanhedrin's **ENCOUNTER** with reality – 21b-24

4D. **EVANGELISM** in the Supreme Court – 25-32; (Jesus is both Prince and Savior – Ps. 2:6-7; Dan. 9:25; Lk. 2:11; Is. 43:11; 45:15, 21; 49:26; 60:16; Jn. 4:42)

Note: repentance means “change of mind.” Understand the reasons Christ came and was *exalted: to give* (Greek: to produce, to cause) repentance in Israel and forgiveness of sins. Christ forgives sins – Luke 5:24.

5D. **EXECUTE** the apostles - 33

6D. Gamaliel's **EXCELLENT** counsel – 34

1E. Don't **FIGHT** God – 34-39; Ps. 39:5; 62:11; Acts 9:4-6

Note: Gamaliel was a very important rabbi; he led the pharisaic minority in the Sanhedrin and was well respected for his scholarship and wisdom. Paul, the apostle, *sat at his feet* – was his pupil – Acts 22:3. Gamaliel's counsel is very sound; in summary, the works and movements of men will come to nothing. He gives two examples: 1) Theudas – no historical account outside of this Scripture. 2) Judas the Galilean led a tax revolt against Rome in A.D. 6. He led some people after him and he died. All who followed him were scattered.

2E. **FLOGGED** for Jesus – 40 (beat or scourge so as to take off the skin)

7D. The apostles' **EXTRAORDINARY** response – 41

8D. The apostles' **EXEMPLARY** lives – 42

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Note: what do you do when you're whipped for Christ and commanded not to speak in His name? You rejoice that you are counted worthy to suffer for His sake, and everyday in public and in private you do not cease preaching and teaching that Jesus is the Messiah of Israel, the Lord and Savior of the world, and the only way to heaven.