

ACTS 5:12-18

Introduction:

1. Remember, while Christ was on the cross He had prayed for Israel's forgiveness for not believing He was Messiah, and for their killing, murdering, crucifying their Messiah - Him. So here in Acts, the prophetic program to Israel was resumed again. It was hoped that the nation would now repent, believe Jesus Christ was Messiah, and then they could spread the kingdom gospel message to the world.
2. Here in early Acts, the apostles had begun to actually offer the kingdom. "The times of refreshing" (3:19) were at hand. Christ's followers were experiencing a foretaste of what kingdom (1000 years) blessings would be like.

*Because of this, such sin as that of Ananias and Sapphira could not be tolerated. If it was tolerated, how would their long-awaited kingdom differ from the present evil world - where most distrusted each other, where men schemed and plotted to get the wealth of others?

A. Apostolic power:

1. If ever we need proof that we (the Body) do not live in early Acts, it is right here in these verses!

Acts 5:12-16 - And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. Acts 5:13 And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. Acts 5:14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) Acts 5:15 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. Acts 5:16 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 healed every one.

Here, when God healed somebody, He healed them. There wasn't any question about it, nor claiming yourself healed now and getting it six months later.

2. These men were showing a kingdom display of God's blessings. They were experiencing power of "the world to come".

*What happens when man comes into the presence of God's glory? The men in verses 11 & 13 were afraid to get too close to the apostles. They were scared of them!

- a. Deuteronomy 5:23-25 - And it came to pass, when ye heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, (for the mountain did burn with fire,) that ye came near unto me, *even* all the heads of your tribes, and your elders; Deut. 5:24 And ye said, Behold, the LORD our God hath shewed us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire: we have seen this day that God doth talk with man, and he liveth. Deut. 5:25 Now therefore why should we die? for this great fire will consume us: if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any more, then we shall die.

- * When God gave the Law to Israel, He gave it with a great demonstration of His glory that
- * made the people to fear.

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- b. Here in Acts the apostles, the Little Flock, and the New Covenant were beginning to be inaugurated with the showing of God's glory through this group of believers (Little Flock - not Body believers). This was a view of what the kingdom will be like.
- c. Isaiah 60:1-2 - Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. Isaiah 60:2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

Matthew 5:14-15 - Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Matt. 5:15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

Matthew 15:24 - But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Acts 2:36 - Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

I Peter 2:9, 4:14 - But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 1Peter 4:14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

*When the people saw the glory of God it scared them.

- d. Joel 2:32 - And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

*This is what Peter talked about at Pentecost in Acts 2:16-17. This Little Flock (remnant) were these Jewish believers-Apostles. As a Jew, if one wanted deliverance, one had to become part of this remnant that would soon go into the Trib (they believed), and then into the glory kingdom.

*Nobody could see the glory of God except through them!

- e. We should not be surprised since this had been said by Christ and the Word:

Mark 16:20 - And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

I Corinthians 1:22 - For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

- 3. In verse 12, it mentions "Solomon's porch", which was a large outer court of the Temple. They were still meeting in the Temple, still following the Law, and still doing their Jewish rituals (cleansing-sacrificing). **All they have added was that Jesus indeed was their living Messiah, proven by His kingdom glory upon them.
 - a. Remember, there had not been given any revelation that they were free from the Law. That does not happen until Paul is saved. Even when Paul begins the Body of Christ (mid-Acts), Israel's Little Flock continued on with the kingdom message - even though Paul taught that their prophetic program had been delayed (Rom. 9-11).

- b. Note: Acts 13:38-39 - Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: Acts 13:39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.
- c. But the Little Flock, they **stayed** with the Law-Kingdom message.

Acts 15:1-2, 5-6, 19-21 - And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, *and said*, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. Acts 15:2 When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question. Acts 15:5 But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command *them* to keep the law of Moses. Acts 15:6 And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter. Acts 15:19 Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: Acts 15:20 But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and *from* fornication, and *from* things strangled, and *from* blood. Acts 15:21 For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.

Acts 21:20-21 - And when they heard *it*, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law: Acts 21:21 And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise *their* children, neither to walk after the customs.

II Peter 3:15-16 - And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 2Peter 3:16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

4. In verse 14 a good number were "added to the Lord". Most assume this means added to the **Body** of Christ. It is true they were added to the company of believers, but it is to the Little Flock.

*Remember that the Body of Christ did not begin until **Mid-Acts** with Paul.

I Timothy 1:15-16 - This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. 1Tim. 1:16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

5. The Apostles were healing **every**one brought to them. The Bible doesn't say it, but the people even believed that if the shadow of Peter went on them they would be healed. And why not? The Apostles were showing kingdom **glory**, power, and wonders. The Jewish people were caught up in this move of God and believed in His healing kingdom message.
6. The **final** Person of the Godhead presented to Israel is the Holy Spirit. Israel had already rejected God the Father, God the Son, and now their **last** opportunity as a nation to embrace Messiah is at hand.

*Many have been witnessing His working through the Little Flock.

- a. Notice what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit's coming to earth:

John 16:7-11 - Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.
John 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: John 16:9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; John 16:10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; John 16:11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

b. The Holy Spirit's three-fold ministry:

- (1) [Of sin, because they believe not on me]
*Israel rejected and would not believe Jesus to be the Messiah. But now He is alive and you better believe (the sermon in Acts 2).
- (2) [of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more]
*Christ is up there (on the right hand of the Father) because you rejected Him. But God will send Him back down here if you would believe (the sermon in Acts 3).
- (3) [Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.]
*The prince of this world is Christ. Prior to the cross, the prince of the world was Satan (John 12-14). Now Christ takes this term and applies it to Himself. Why would He do that? Satan had usurped the title, but Christ is saying He is taking it back (the sermon in Acts 4:24-26 and Psalm 2).

c. So we are seeing this ministry of the Holy Spirit in early Acts doing what Christ had foretold them to do.

Remember: Acts 3:24-26 - Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days. Acts 3:25 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Acts 3:26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

B. The religious jealousy and anger:

1. There is nothing that upsets religion more than to hear the truth of the Scriptures. The miraculous working through the Apostles provoked again a hostile reaction from Israel's religious leaders. They

<u>Acts 5:17-18</u> - Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation, <u>Acts 5:18</u> And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.
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are jealous of the multitude going to the Apostles and at the Temple! But, also, they were upset that the Apostles denied their command to not preach about Christ.

2. This religious group was led by the Sadducees who did not believe in resurrection. That Christ was risen and alive sent them over the edge. The Pharisees believed in resurrection. This shows us that the liberals (deniers of truth) had taken control of Israel's leadership.
 - a. Even today when truth is given to many, because they cannot get beyond their family/tradition/church and their denomination, they reject truth!

*Les Feldick said: "They don't want the truth. They want their religion. They don't want to be bothered because they are too comfortable. So they say, just leave me alone."

- b. So here in Acts 5, the Apostles are arrested once again. Again, it was Caiaphas and the Sadducees who bitterly opposed their Messiah Kingdom offer message and especially the resurrection.

Matthew 22:23 - The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrec-
tion, and asked him,