

JESUS AND HIS ACTS THROUGH YOU

The book of Acts study

Part 4

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"I can guarantee this truth; those who believe in me will do these things that I am doing. They will do greater things because I am going to the Father."

John 14:12 (GW)

Acts Chapter 5 highlights:

- Ananias and Sapphira lie to the Holy Spirit (God) about the sale price of their property and fall over dead
- This event shakes up the early church and many in Jerusalem
- Jesus' apostles perform many signs and wonders among the people
- More and more men and women believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and the church grows
- People bring their sick into the streets on beds and mats hoping that Peter's shadow would fall on them as they pass by – many people are healed and set free
- The religious leaders have the apostles arrested and put in jail
- During the night God sends an angel and opens the doors and brings them out
- They are told to tell the people about Jesus' message of this new life (the gospel)
- The religious leaders find out the apostles are gone and are puzzled about it
- The apostles are brought back in to appear before the religious leaders
- The religious leaders say, "You were told not to teach in the name of Jesus?"
- Peter speaks up and says we must obey God and not men and shares the Gospel
- The religious leaders are furious and wants them all put to death
- But one of the religious leaders named Gamaliel says let's leave these men alone because if what they are doing is of human origin it will eventually fail but if it is from God you cannot stop it
- They order them again not to speak in the name of Jesus and let them go
- The apostles go away rejoicing that they were counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the name of Jesus
- Day after day in the temple courts and from house to house they never stop teaching and proclaiming the good news – that Jesus is the Messiah!

Some things we learn from Acts chapter 5:

1. **God the creator of all things is holy and that's why his Spirit within us is called The Holy Spirit**

"You have not lied just to human beings but to God" Acts 5:4 (NIV)

"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs each with six wings: with two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they called to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

Isaiah 6:1-3 (NIV)

2. God's holy power was on his new church in Jerusalem

"The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people."

Acts 5:12 (NIV)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

3. We must obey God rather than men when we know it's God

"We must obey God rather than human beings." Acts 5:29 (NIV)

"The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe."

Proverbs 29:25 (NKJV)

4. The name of Jesus was used powerfully in the early church and feared by those who opposed their message

"They ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus and let them go"

Acts 5:40 (NIV)

"That at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth, and under the earth." Philippians 2:10 (NIV)

5. We must never stop teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah (Lord) even if we suffer because of it

"Day after day in the temple courts and from house to house they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah."

Acts 5:42 (NIV)

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad because great is your reward in heaven." Matthew 5:11 (NIV)