

The Acts of the Apostles

Part I: Peter and the Other Apostles Witness in Jerusalem and the Surrounding Areas (Acts 1-12)

Session 5: Lives of the Early Christian Witnesses (4:32-5:42)

Videos of this Bible Study may be found on YouTube under "Joseph Polzin", or through this link: <https://bit.ly/2WWBV1t>

- I. Read 4:32-37. Again, remembering 2:44-47, why were the disciples living like this?
 - a. Note: Barnabas, who would later travel with Paul, is given here as a positive example, and was known for his encouragement (cf. 11:22-24).

- II. What were Ananias and Sapphira's rights in terms of what they did with their land? (5:4)
 - a. What was their sin? (vv. 1, 4)

 - b. Why were the consequences to their actions so severe?

- III. What was the purpose of miracles in Jesus' ministry? What do you think was the purpose of Jesus working "signs and wonders" (v. 12) through the apostles?

- IV. Why do you think the high priest and party of the Sadducees were jealous? (v. 17)

- V. What did the freeing of the apostles (v. 19) demonstrate to their enemies? To the apostles?
 - a. What were they commanded to speak? (v. 20)

- VI. Where was the council's "fear" located? (v. 26) How is this demonstrated by their actions?
 - a. Why were they upset in v. 28? What does this indicate about their conscience?

The Acts of the Apostles

Part I: Peter and the Other Apostles Witness in Jerusalem and the Surrounding Areas

Session 5: Lives of the Early Christian Witnesses (4:32-5:42)

Page 2

- b. Where was the apostles' "fear" located? (v. 29) How is this demonstrated by their actions?
 - c. Re-read vv. 30-31. Was the blood of Jesus upon the council? What should this have led the council to do? (v. 31)
 - d. What does this tell us about how God works? (cf. Genesis 50:20)
- VII. What was the council's reaction in v. 33? Note the contrast with v. 20.
- VIII. What did Gamaliel (cf. 22:3) advise the council to do in vv. 35-39? Was this a faithful response? Why or why not?
- a. How was his statement in v. 39 true?
- IX. What was the apostles' reaction in v. 41? Why did they have this reaction?
- a. What does this tell us about things we must endure in this lifetime? (cf. Luke 6:22-23)
- X. What leaders has God given us today?
- a. Are we to obey the leaders that God has given us? (cf. Rom. 13:1) What are the exceptions?
 - b. Why is it important to recognize these as exceptions, not the rule? (cf. Matt. 22:16-22)