

SENIOR BIBLE FELLOWSHIP ASSIGNMENT: AUGUST 11, 2026

REVIEW:

At our July 28th meeting we discussed Acts 5:17 – 26:

- > Due to the growing number of believers in the message of Jesus Christ, the high priest and the party of the Sadducees were “filled with jealousy” so they arrested the apostles and put them in prison. The first time they arrested Peter and John they were “greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead” (Acts 4:2). Their attitude toward the apostles is changing.
- > An angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and told them to “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.” In an answer to their prayer in Acts 4:29, “Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness...” the apostles disregarding safety for themselves, obeyed the angel and at daybreak began to teach in the temple.
- > When the high priest and council told the officers to bring the prisoners to them, they discovered that they were not in prison any longer. This greatly perplexed them and they began to wonder what this would come to...these events were not normal. Even the officers who were sent to bring the apostles to the council were afraid of the people. Something greater than they knew was on hand.
- > We looked at a quote from Isaiah 41:10, ““fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” The apostles were aware of God’s presence and power and their actions show it. We were encouraged to live knowing God is with us.
- > It is in this tension that the apostles appeared before the council and high priest.

Please read Acts 5:27 – 42 and be ready to discuss the following questions.

ACTS 5:27 - 42

²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.” ³³ When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴ But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵ And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶ For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷ After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸ So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, ⁴⁰ and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

QUESTIONS:

1. Standing before the council the apostles were steady in their faith and obedient to God's commands. When the high priest questioned them saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us."

> In Peter's response to the high priest, what did he accuse the high priest of doing?

> Does Peter seem intimidated as he speaks? Why or why not?

> In Peter's response to the high priest, Peter spoke of many things God did for Jesus. Share one of these which is important to your faith walk.

> The high priest did not mention the name of Jesus when he questioned Peter. Do you think this was intentional or unintentional? Have you ever notice how sometimes people will talk about God but will avoid saying the name of Jesus? Why do you believe they do that?

2. After hearing Peter's response, what was the council's reaction?

3. Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor for all the people gave orders to put the apostles outside for a little while. Those who were enraged were primarily of the Sadducees. Gamaliel, a Pharisee had the cooler head. Gamaliel studied under Hillel, one of the greatest rabbis of all time. It is also of note that Gamaliel was tutoring Saul (later Paul). Gamaliel does not believe that God is on the side of the apostles.

> What does Gamaliel suggest they do with the apostles?

4. The council beat them, charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. The beating was not a slap on the hand. The beating was severe... probably more punishment than any of us have experienced. Due to the anger of the council, I would imagine the apostles experienced the maximum of 39 lashes.

> After receiving a severe beating, why did apostles rejoice?

> After they rejoiced what did they do?

> A reminder that this is not just some story in the past which is of no consequence to us today. There are people around the world right now who are experiencing similar persecution for their faith. They are ostracized, beaten, and even killed.

>> Please pray for those who are facing these real acts of hate and violence.

>> Praise God for the lack of physical persecution we are currently experiencing.

>> Pray that you will share the good news of Jesus Christ with boldness.