

## LESSON 26 – THE CHURCH GROWS AND IS PERSECUTED

### What did you find surprising?

#### Context:

- Recall from last week that one way the believers had been showing the love of God for each other was by selling their property and giving it to the church so that the poor and needy among them could be cared for.

READ: Acts 5:1-10

- 1.) What two things does v. 4 tell us about the Holy Spirit?
- 2.) What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira? Where did they go wrong?
- 3.) What message did God send to the church by his swift punishment?

OVERVIEW: Acts 5:12-16

READ: Acts 5:17-42

- 1.) Once again the Jewish leaders demanded that the apostles stop preaching about Jesus. How did Peter respond? (v. 29)
- 2.) The Jewish leaders had the apostles flogged (whipped) and told them to stop preaching about Jesus. How did they respond? (vv. 41-42)
- 3.) You probably have not been flogged for following Jesus, but how have you been persecuted by unbelievers?

OVERVIEW: Acts 6 – 7:53

READ: Acts 7:54-8:1a

- 1.) What message did the Jewish leaders absolutely refuse to tolerate (v. 56,57)?
- 2.) Why do Stephen's words sound familiar?
- 3.) What does it mean that the coats were laid at the feet of Saul?

4.) From that day on Saul began violently persecuting the Church. What was the result (v. 8:4)?

OVERVIEW: Acts 8:9-25

READ: Acts 8:26-40

1.) Why is it important for us as Christ's witnesses to have a solid grasp of the Scriptures (vv. 34-35)?

2.) Our standard practice is to baptize infants and then instruct them in the Word. Based on an example like the Ethiopian eunuch, what should be our practice with adults?

### **LAW & GOSPEL**

Where do we see God's law?

Where do we see the Gospel?

For May 17th

- Read Acts ch. 9:1-31
- No Memory Work!