

Acts 4-6

Ch 4

Theme – While preaching, Peter & John arrested by Temple guard; additional 5,000 saved after Peter preached; Peter & John on trial before the Sanhedrin; Sanhedrin demands they reveal the source of their authority (same as when they challenged the Lord Jesus: Jn 2:18, Matt 21:23); Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit (one Baptism, can be refilled again & again); the name of the Lord Jesus, whom you crucified (3rd mention so far in Acts), is the authority that healed this man; Ps 118:22- Stone the builders rejected; “There is no other name under heaven... by which we must be saved!”- v12; uneducated & untrained, but had been with Jesus (v13); Sanhedrin deliberates in private; Sanhedrin faced with quandary since they cannot deny a miracle took place; Sanhedrin tries to bully Peter & John into silence; WE MUST OBEY GOD!- v20 (similar to the choice of Joshua in Josh 24:15- choose who you will serve, but as for me & my house, we will serve the Lord!); Sanhedrin again threatens Peter & John, but pointless since news of the miracle has spread; Apostles pray for boldness; building shakes & Apostles refilled with the Holy Spirit as God the Father immediately answers; description of the fellowship & agape love in the Early Church; Apostles testifying of the Lord Jesus with power; Barnabas- Son of Encouragement

Ch 5

Theme – Ananias & Sapphira misrepresent the offering they contributed to the Early Church; “you have not lied to men, but to God”- v4 (can fool most men some of the time, but can fool God none of the time); Ananias falls down dead (proximity to the revelation affects the swiftness & severity of the consequences); Sapphira lies as well & falls down dead; great fear fell upon the whole church; extrapolation of Acts 4:33 (Apostles testify with power); some respectfully distance themselves, others embrace the Gospel; everyone respects what’s happening as extraordinary miracles take place through Peter (like through Paul in Acts 19:11-12); Apostles arrested by High Priest (due to jealousy, “heat,” similar to Matt 27:18, but different Greek word); angel frees the Apostles from prison & they are commanded to preach in the Temple; confusion the next morning

when Sanhedrin cant find the Apostles (means the High Priest didn't go to the Temple that morning); Temple guards "request the pleasure of the Apostles' company" because they're scared of the crowds; "We told you we had to obey God" (v29, Acts 4:19); High Priest tries to distance himself from the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus, but Peter doesn't let him/ them; Apostles & the Holy Spirit both testify that forgives of sins is only possible through the Lord Jesus; when Gamaliel (Paul's rabbi) sees that the priests intended to kill the Apostles, he warns them in private to be cautious, lest they be found to be fighting against God (v33, 35, 39); Sanhedrin has Apostles flogged and sternly warned to stop; Apostles rejoice that they have been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name (Phil 3:10- fellowship of His sufferings; Apostles "kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ" everywhere- v42

Ch 6

Theme – As church increases, Greek widows being overlooked; rather than forsake/ abandon prayer or the ministry of the Word, Apostles exhort the church to choose servants to serve them; qualifications for first Deacons (good reputation, full of the Spirit, full of wisdom); the Seven are chosen (all have Greek names); Stephen prominently displayed (will be 1st Martyr in ch 7); Word of God spreads after first deacons allow the Apostles to be undistracted in the ministry of the Word; Stephen clashes with the Synagogue of Freedman (Jews from North Africa & Asia Minor); Stephen arrested on false charges (that Stephen was speaking against the Temple & against the Law of Moses/ customs & traditions handed down)
