

Acts of the Apostles 5:15-42 __ Lesson 15

Fighting Against God

1. Acts 5:11-16

- a. An apostle = one directly chosen and sent by the Lord to lay a foundation
- b. Jesus said... receive whom I send – Luke 10:16, John 13:20, 1 Thess 4:8
- c. It is made clear in this chapter that those opposing the apostles oppose God:
- d. Ananias/Saphira (5:4), healings (5:15), angel (5:19), apostles (5:29), Gamaliel (5:39)
- e. Here are greater works than Jesus did – John 14:10-13; Matt 9:20-21 & 14:36
- f. Every one healed that is brought to them – a foretaste of the kingdom healing.

2. Acts 5:17-24

- a. *“they shall lay hands on you... into prisons”* - Luke 21:12-15
- b. Angels help bring in Israel’s kingdom – Ge 28:12, John 1:51, Isa 9:7, 37:32; Rev 7:1
- c. The senate of the children of Israel oppose the apostolic ministry of Christ.
- d. Paul is the evidence that Israel rejected the kingdom when the saints scattered
- e. *“we found no man within”* – This sounds like the empty tomb of Christ

3. Acts 5:25-32

- a. *“feared the people”* – as with John the Baptist, Jesus, and now the apostles
- b. *“didn’t we tell you?”* – But the apostles said they wouldn’t stop – Acts 4:19-20
- c. *“intend to bring this man’s blood”* – who brought what? - Matt 27:20-25
- d. *“obey God rather than men”* – A statement of kingdom authority like Mt 22:21
 - i. When they are scattered Peter tells them to submit - 1 Pet 2:13-23
- e. *“God of our fathers”* – They did not speak against the scriptures or Israel
- f. *“repentance and forgiveness”* – the same message as Lk 3:3, 24:47, Ac 2:38, Mt 6:12
- g. *“to them that obey him”* – a jab against the priests and rulers who opposed them

4. Acts 5:33-42

- a. Gamaliel was Paul’s (Saul) teacher, a well respected teacher of the law – Acts 22:3
- b. He provides a way of acknowledging whether their message is true.
- c. Gamaliel’s hands-off approach does not work with truth. There is no neutrality.
- d. The result of this chapter (and the book) is that the apostles continued - 5:42
- e. *“ceased not”* – The response to Gamaliel’s “test” is seen by the end of the Acts
- f. The rulers beat and opposed the apostles proving they were fighting against God
- g. *“teach and preach Jesus Christ”* – according to prophecy (not the mystery)
- h. How do we know if we are fighting against God? Search and study the scriptures.