

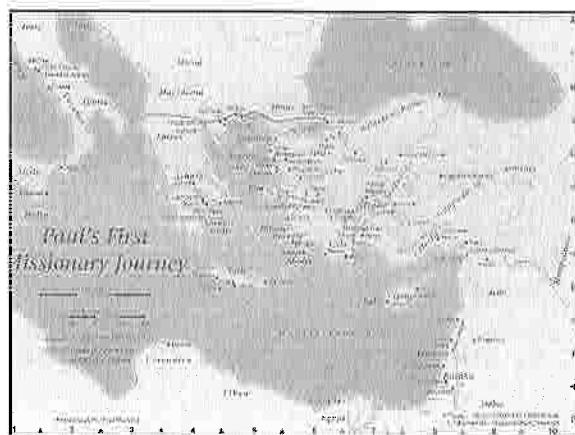
Book of Acts Study

Men of Grace

March 2, 2010

Acts 5:12-42

Brian Christie



Outline of Acts

I. Introduction: Jesus ascends to the Father and gives a mission (1:1-11)

- A. Review of book 1 to the ascension (1:1-5)**
- B. The ascension and final testament: A promise for thee disciples now and a promise to return (1:6-11)**

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II. The early church in Jerusalem (1:12-6:7)

- A. Community life: Replacing Judas by depending on God and reconstituting the Twelve (1:12-26)**
- B. Pentecost (2:1-41)**
 - 1. The event: The coming of the Spirit (2:1-13)**
 - 2. The explanation: The Spirit's coming shows Jesus is Lord-Messiah (2:14-36)**
 - 3. The reaction: Repent and receive the promised gift (2:37-41)**

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C. Summary: Community life (2:42-47)

D. The healing of the lame man and the arrest of Peter and John (3:1-4:31)

- 1. The event: The healing of the lame man (3:1-10)**
- 2. The explanation: Peter preaches Jesus from Torah and promise (3:11-26)**
- 3. The arrest and the leadership's deliberation (4:1-22)**
- 4. The community reaction: Prayer for boldness (4:23-31)**

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E. Community life and problems (4:32-5:11)

- 1. All things in common: the example of Barnabas (4:32-37)**
- 2. Deceiving the Spirit and judgment: Ananias and Sapphira (5:1-11)**

F. Summary: signs and wonders (5:12-16)

G. More persecution (5:17-42)

- 1. Arrest, divine release, and rearrest (5:17-26)**
- 2. Deliberation and release (5:27-42)**

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- H. Community life: The appointment of the Seven to help Hellenist widows (6:1-6)**
- I. Summary of the Jerusalem community (6:7)**

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F. Signs and Wonders (5:12-16)

This summary gives a glimpse of the divine power working through the apostles. People are being healed. Outsiders are impressed. People believe. Apparently, the prospect of arrest also keeps some believers from joining the apostles. Nevertheless, the bold apostles engage publicly in their ministry of service to those in need and gain respect and response as a result. They do not cloister themselves away or hide. They continue to serve and reach out in ministry that testifies to their message and God's call for all. The growth of attention demands a renewed response from the Jewish leadership.

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G. More Persecution (5:17-42)

"The apostles represent an emerging new group that is being forced out by Judaism and so is developing its own identity. Although the apostles still preach the God of their fathers, the high-priestly leadership rejects the idea that God is at work and moves to disconnect the apostolic leadership from Judaism. The apostles do not seek this separation; the Jewish leadership does. This leadership rejects fulfillment, a fulfillment underwritten by many diverse divine signs. But some Pharisees may be open to seeing what God is doing. Hope for some Jews exists as long as they are open to God's work. Regardless of the response, God is behind the new way. The work to sustain the movement is in God's hands."

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1. Arrest, Divine Release and Re-arrest

(5:17-16)

"The undercurrent to the passage is that nothing will be able to stop the advance of the gospel message. Divine leading and protection are on the apostles' side. The opposition may persecute them but will never crush them. The application to the readers of Acts is that they can be strong in their support of Jesus."

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2. Deliberations, Beatings and Release (5:27-42)

"The major points of the passage include the note that God is behind the movement and the exemplary way the apostles boldly face persecution, even a beating. All of this fulfills the prayer of 4:24-31. The church will preach Jesus no matter what the cost."

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Discussion Questions

- 1. What is the purpose of the signs and wonders performed by the apostles in 5:12-16? Why don't we see this in our church today?**
- 2. Where is Jesus the Messiah now? What is He doing there? (5:31-32)**

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1. Acts 5:12-42 (New Living Translation)

¹² The apostles were performing many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers were meeting regularly at the Temple in the area known as Solomon's Colonnade. ¹³ But no one else dared to join them, even though all the people had high regard for them. ¹⁴ Yet more and more people believed and were brought to the Lord—crowds of both men and women. ¹⁵ As a result of the apostles' work, sick people were brought out into the streets on beds and mats so that Peter's shadow might fall across some of them as he went by. ¹⁶ Crowds came from the villages around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those possessed by evil spirits, and they were all healed. ¹⁷ The high priest and his officials, who were Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸ They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. ¹⁹ But an angel of the Lord came at night, opened the gates of the jail, and brought them out. Then he told them, ²⁰ "Go to the Temple and give the people this message of life!" ²¹ So at daybreak the apostles entered the Temple, as they were told, and immediately began teaching. When the high priest and his officials arrived, they convened the high council—the full assembly of the elders of Israel. Then they sent for the apostles to be brought from the jail for trial. ²² But when the Temple guards went to the jail, the men were gone. So they returned to the council and reported, ²³ "The jail was securely locked, with the guards standing outside,

but when we opened the gates, no one was there!" ²⁴ When the captain of the Temple guard and the leading priests heard this, they were perplexed, wondering where it would all end. ²⁵ Then someone arrived with startling news: "The men you put in jail are standing in the Temple, teaching the people!" ²⁶ The captain went with his Temple guards and arrested the apostles, but without violence, for they were afraid the people would stone them. ²⁷ Then they brought the apostles before the high council, where the high priest confronted them. ²⁸ "Didn't we tell you never again to teach in this man's name?" he demanded. "Instead, you have filled all Jerusalem with your teaching about him, and you want to make us responsible for his death!" ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead after you killed him by hanging him on a cross. ³¹ Then God put him in the place of honor at his right hand as Prince and Savior. He did this so the people of Israel would repent of their sins and be forgiven. ³² We are witnesses of these things and so is the Holy Spirit, who is given by God to those who obey him." ³³ When they heard this, the high council was furious and decided to kill them. ³⁴ But one member, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, who was an expert in religious law and respected by all the people, stood up and ordered that the men be sent outside the council chamber for a while. ³⁵ Then he said to his colleagues, "Men of Israel, take care what you are planning to do to these men! ³⁶ Some time ago there was that fellow Theudas, who pretended to be someone great. About 400 others joined him, but he was killed, and all his followers went their various ways. The whole movement came to nothing. ³⁷ After

him, at the time of the census, there was Judas of Galilee. He got people to follow him, but he was killed, too, and all his followers were scattered. ³⁸ "So my advice is, leave these men alone. Let them go. If they are planning and doing these things merely on their own, it will soon be overthrown. ³⁹ But if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You may even find yourselves fighting against God!" ⁴⁰ The others accepted his advice. They called in the apostles and had them flogged. Then they ordered them never again to speak in the name of Jesus, and they let them go. ⁴¹ The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus. ⁴² And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: "Jesus is the Messiah."