

April 19, 2020

Acts 5:17-42

Struggling to Stop the Spread

Though many attempts are made to stop the spread of the Gospel, God ensures that it will advance through obedient, Holy Spirit-empowered witnesses.

Defensive Strategy #1: Arrest & Imprison (vv.17-18)

Offensive Move #1: Jailbreak & Teaching (vv.19-25)

Defensive Strategy #2: Council Questioning (vv.26-28)

Offensive Move #2: Bold, Spirit-Empowered Gospel Witness (vv.29-32)

Defensive Strategy #3: Enraged Desire to Kill (v.33)

Offensive Move #3: God Provides Protection through a Pharisee (vv.34-39)

Defensive Strategy #4: Beat and Charge to Speak No More (v.40)

Offensive Move #4: Rejoice, Teach, and Preach (vv.41-42)

Read and Pray Ahead
For Next Week
Acts 6:1-7

Read through Acts 5:17-42 again.

List all of the ways that God is clearly at work to ensure the continued spread of the gospel in this passage.

Questions to Consider/Discuss this Week

Question 1: Part 1

What defensive strategies is the Enemy using now to slow the spread of the gospel?

- What challenges are believers facing around the world?
- What challenges are we facing in our community right now?
- What challenges are you personally facing right now?

Question 1: Part 2

What offensive moves for spreading the gospel could we be employing in a time like this?

- What opportunities do believers have around the world?
- What opportunities do we have in our community right now?
- What opportunities for gospel-spreading do you have right now?

Question 2: Part 1

Are we ready to rejoice when we have to start suffering dishonor for being witnesses for Jesus?

Spend some time reflecting on and praying through:

Acts 5:41

1 Peter 4:13

Luke 6:22-23

Question 2: Part 2

What will it take to become the kind of person who will rejoice when I suffer dishonor for being a witness for Jesus?

What step could I take this week?