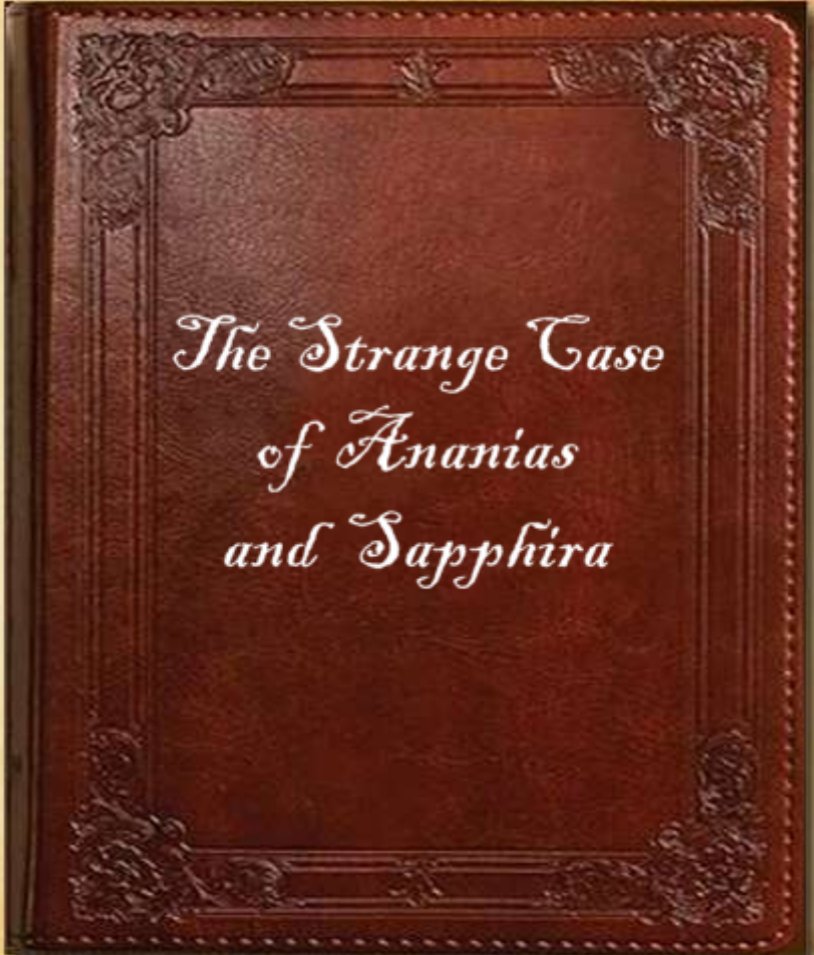


The Acts of the Apostles

Lesson 7: “Go, Stand, and Speak”

Acts 5:1-42

Acts 5 begins with a story that should put the fear of God into every believer.



*The Strange Case
of Ananias
and Sapphira*



Acts 5:1-11

- ¹ But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,
- ² And kept back *part* of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.



Sapphira was a partner in her husband's plot to deceive the apostles.

Acts 5:1-11

- ¹ But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,
- ² And kept back *part* of the price, **his wife also being privy to it**, and brought a certain part, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.

- 3 But Peter said, Ananias,
why hath Satan filled thine
heart to lie to the Holy
Ghost, and to keep back *part*
of the price of the land?
- 4 Whiles it remained, was it
not thine own?
and after it was sold, was it
not in thine own power?
why hast thou conceived this
thing in thine heart?
thou hast not lied unto men,
but unto God.



- 5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost:
and great fear came on all them that heard these things.
- 6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried *him* out, and buried *him*.



- 7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.
- 8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.
- 9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband *are* at the door, and shall carry thee out.





- ¹⁰ Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying *her* forth, buried *her* by her husband.
- ¹¹ And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.



In a story that takes only 11 verses to tell, **“great fear came on all them that heard these things”** is said twice – in verses 5 and 11.



Proverbs 16:6

By mercy and truth iniquity is purged:
and by the fear of the LORD
men depart from evil.

It was easy to see that the apostles had great power on their side.

Acts 5:12-14

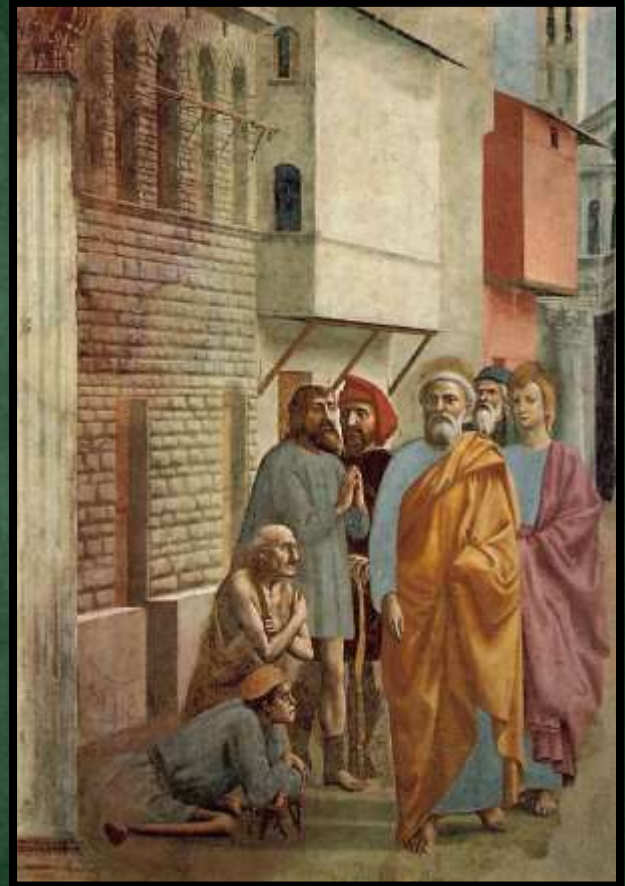
- ¹² And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.
- ¹³ And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.
- ¹⁴ And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)



The hand of God was even upon Peter's shadow.

Acts 5:15-16

- ¹⁵ Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid *them* on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.
- ¹⁶ There came also a multitude *out* of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.



What can we say about the early Church?

Great power and great grace (Acts 4:33)

Great fear (Acts 5:5 and 11)

And great numbers coming to the Lord.



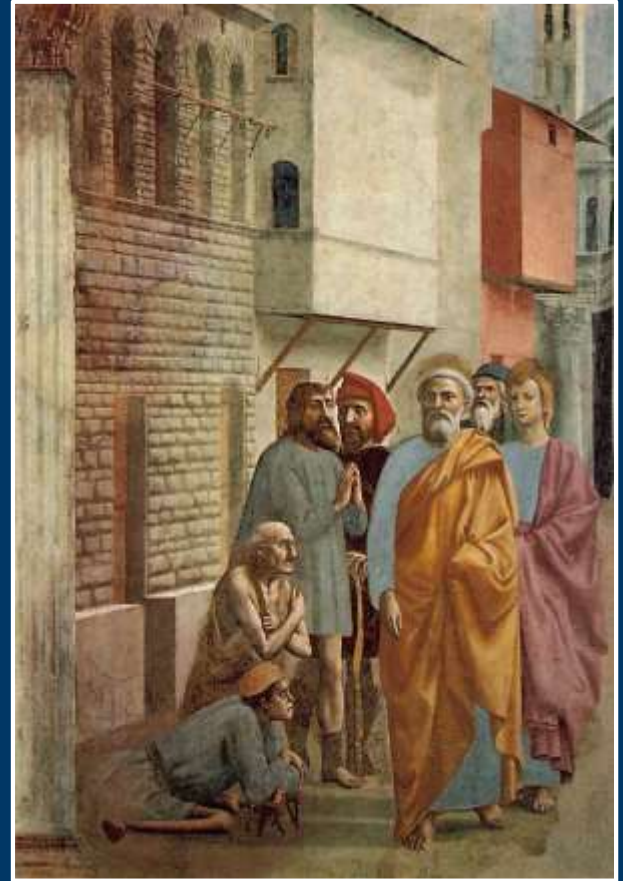
What can we say about the early Church?

Great power and great grace (Acts 4:33)

Great fear (Acts 5:5 and 11)

And great numbers coming to the Lord.

But they also faced great trouble!



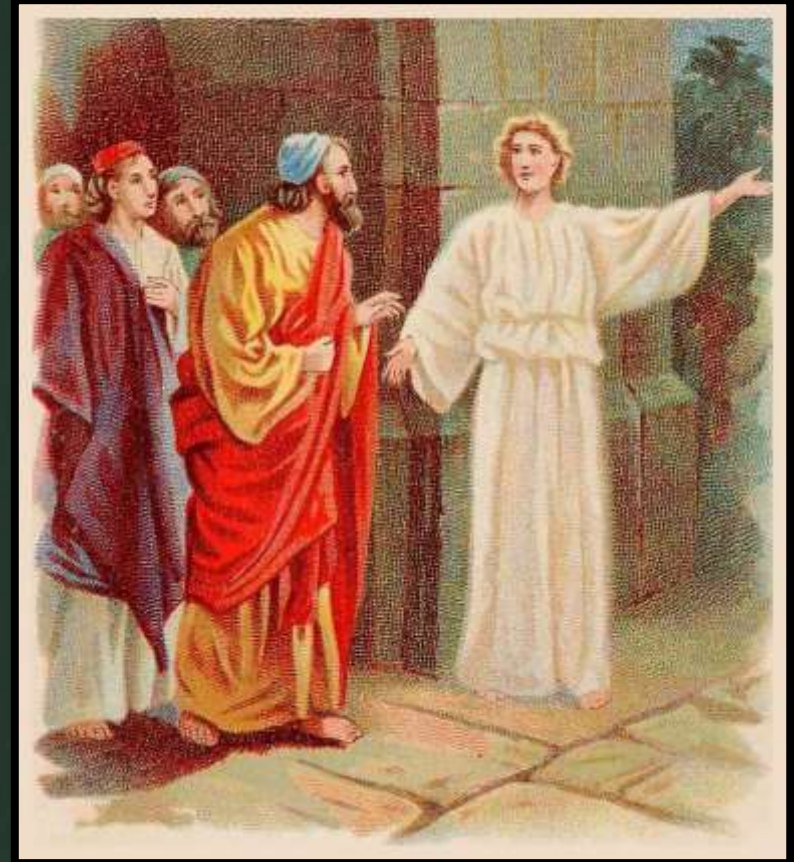
Acts 5:17-18

- ¹⁷ Then the high priest rose up,
and all they that were with him,
(which is the sect of the
Sadducees,)
and were filled with indignation,
¹⁸ And laid their hands on the
apostles, and put them in the
common prison.

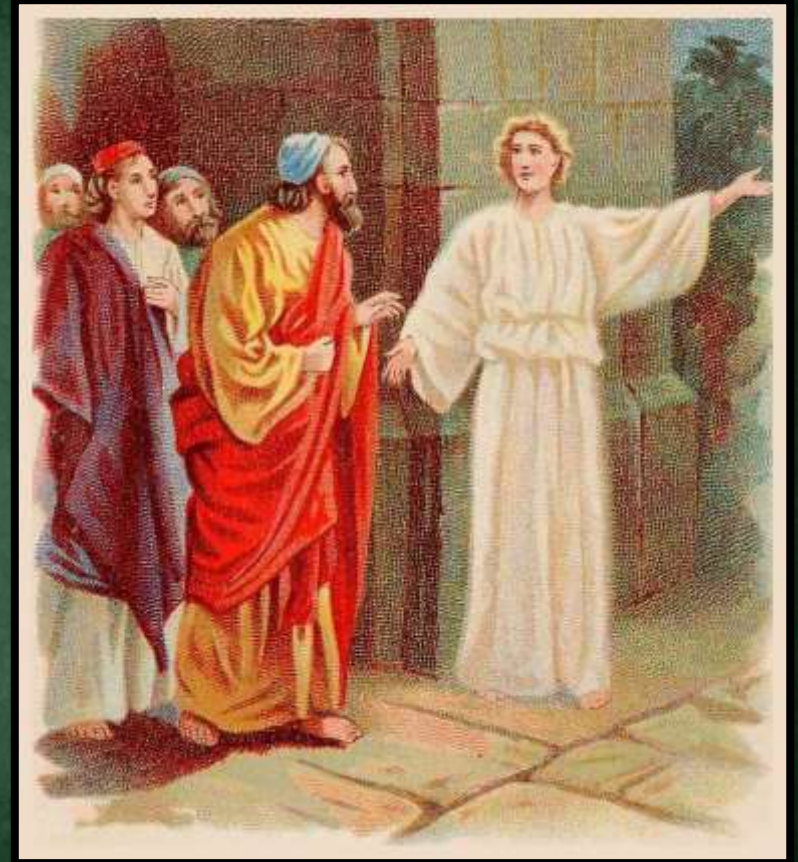


Acts 5:19-20

- ¹⁹ But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,
- ²⁰ Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.



How ironic that the apostles were set free by an angel when the Sadducees did not believe in angels!



How ironic that the apostles were set free by an angel when the Sadducees did not believe in angels!

And how could anyone who reads the Scriptures say there are no angels?



God put angels called *cherubim* in the garden of Eden to guard the tree of life.



Genesis 3:24

So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.



The angel of the Lord stopped
Abraham from sacrificing Isaac.



Genesis 22:11-12

- ¹¹ And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here *am* I.
- ¹² And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.



The angel of God spoke to Moses
from a fiery bush.

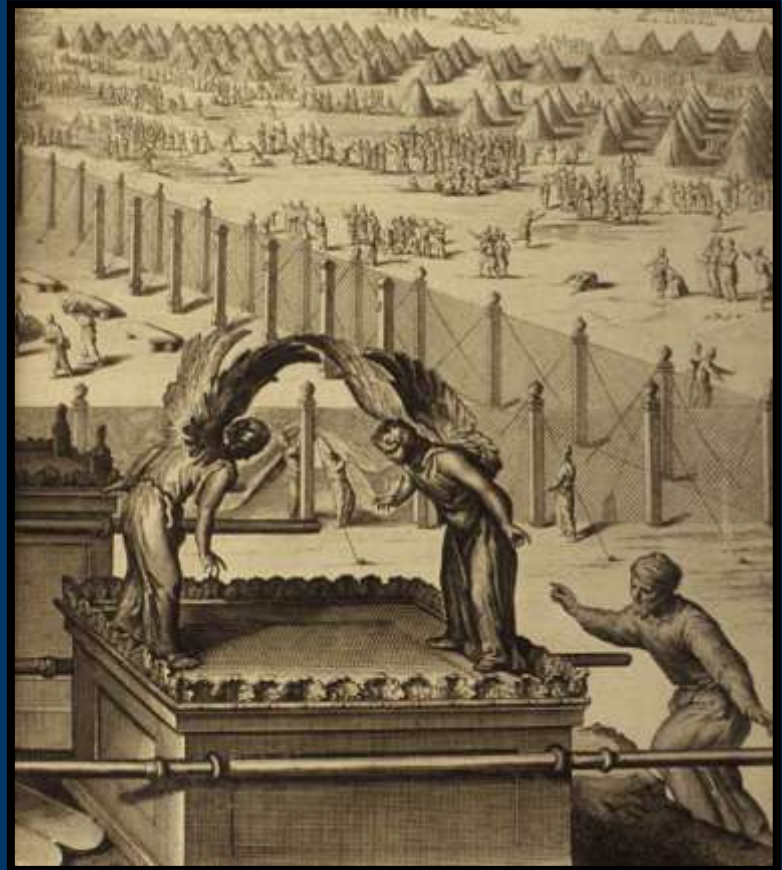


Exodus 3:2

And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush *was* not consumed.

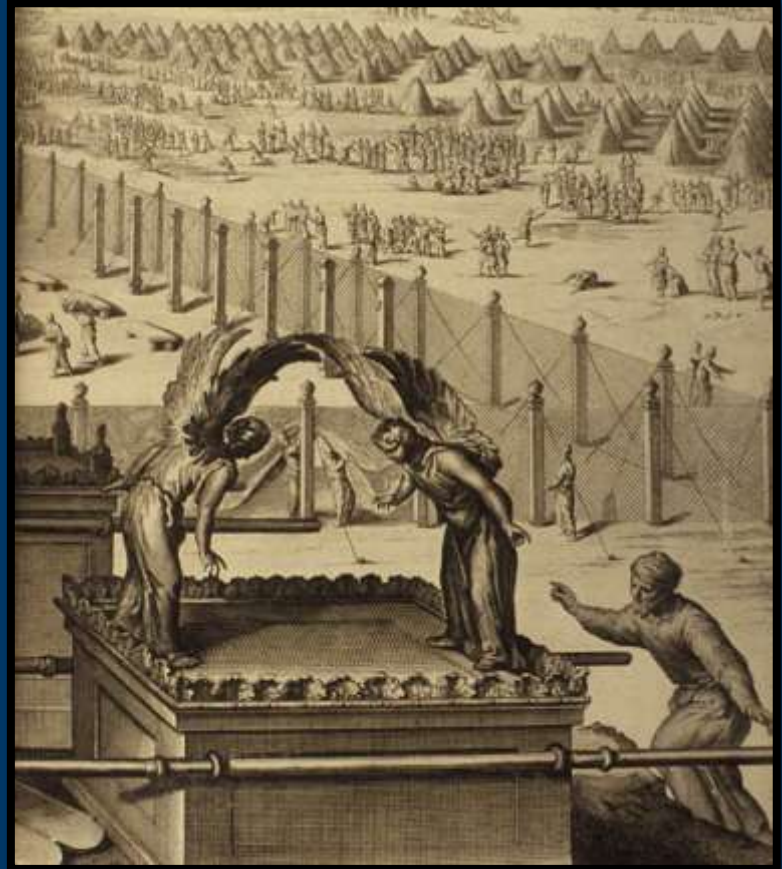


The figures of two cherubs sat on the mercy seat in the Ark of the Covenant.



Exodus 25:19-20

- ¹⁹ And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: *even* of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof.
- ²⁰ And the cherubims shall stretch forth *their* wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces *shall* look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be.



Isaiah saw a vision of the holy seraphim.



Isaiah 6:1-3

- 1 In the year that king Uzziah died
I saw also the Lord sitting upon a
throne, high and lifted up,
and his train filled the temple.
- 2 Above it stood the seraphims:
each one had six wings;
with twain he covered his face,
and with twain he covered his feet,
and with twain he did fly.
- 3 And one cried unto another, and said,
Holy, holy, holy, *is the LORD of hosts:*
the whole earth *is full of his glory.*



*And what shall I more say?
For the time would fail me to tell of ...*

Hagar



Hagar
Jacob



Hagar
Jacob
Balaam



Hagar
Jacob
Balaam
Gideon



Hagar
Jacob
Balaam
Gideon
the parents of Samson



Hagar
Jacob
Balaam
Gideon
the parents of Samson
King David



Hagar

Jacob

Balaam

Gideon

the parents of Samson

King David

Elijah



Hagar
Jacob
Balaam
Gideon
the parents of Samson
King David
Elijah
Daniel



Hagar
Jacob
Balaam
Gideon
the parents of Samson
King David
Elijah
Daniel
Joseph and Mary



Hagar
Jacob
Balaam
Gideon
the parents of Samson
King David
Elijah
Daniel
Joseph and Mary
the shepherds in the field



Hagar

Jacob

Balaam

Gideon

the parents of Samson

King David

Elijah

Daniel

Joseph and Mary

the shepherds in the field

the women at the tomb



Hagar
Jacob
Balaam
Gideon
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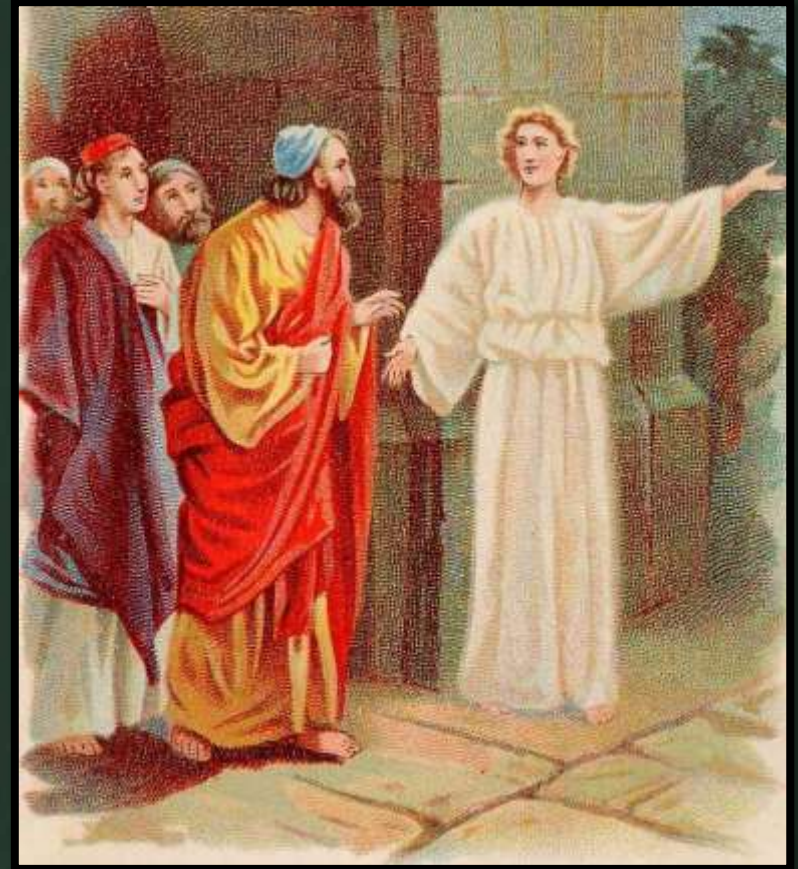


... and so many others who had an encounter with an angel of the Lord!

Returning to the apostles' story:

Acts 5:19-20

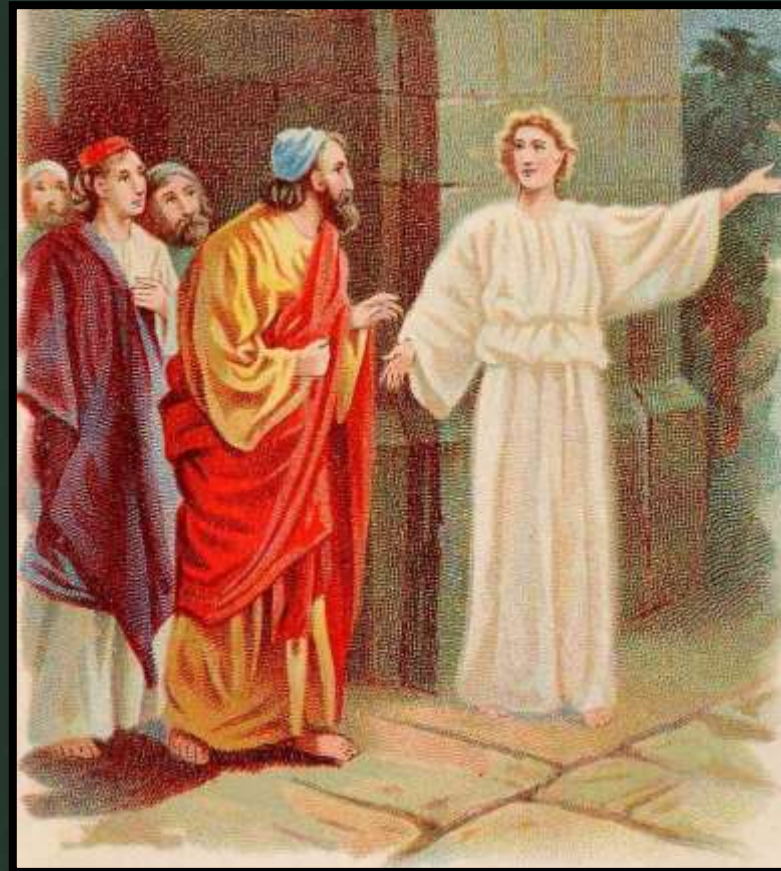
- ¹⁹ But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,
- ²⁰ Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.



Acts 5:21

²¹ And when they heard *that*, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught.

But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.



Acts 5:22-24

- ²² But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told,
- ²³ Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within.
- ²⁴ Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow.



Acts 5:25

Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.



Acts 5:26-28

- ²⁶ Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.
- ²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set *them* before the council: and the high priest asked them,
- ²⁸ Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.



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But they had already done that themselves!



Matthew 27:24-25

- ²⁴ When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but *that* rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.
- ²⁵ Then answered all the people, and said, **His blood *be* on us, and on our children.**

The Bible teaches us to obey civic authority. But it also teaches us to obey God FIRST.

Acts 5:29-32

- ²⁹ Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said,
We ought to obey God rather than men.
- ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised up Jesus,
whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.
- ³¹ Him hath God exalted with his right hand to *be* a Prince and a Saviour,
for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.
- ³² And we are his witnesses of these things;
and so *is* also the Holy Ghost,
whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Acts 5:33

When they heard *that*,
they were cut *to the heart*,
and took counsel to slay them.



Acts 5:33

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Such a contrast to the men on
the Day of Pentecost!

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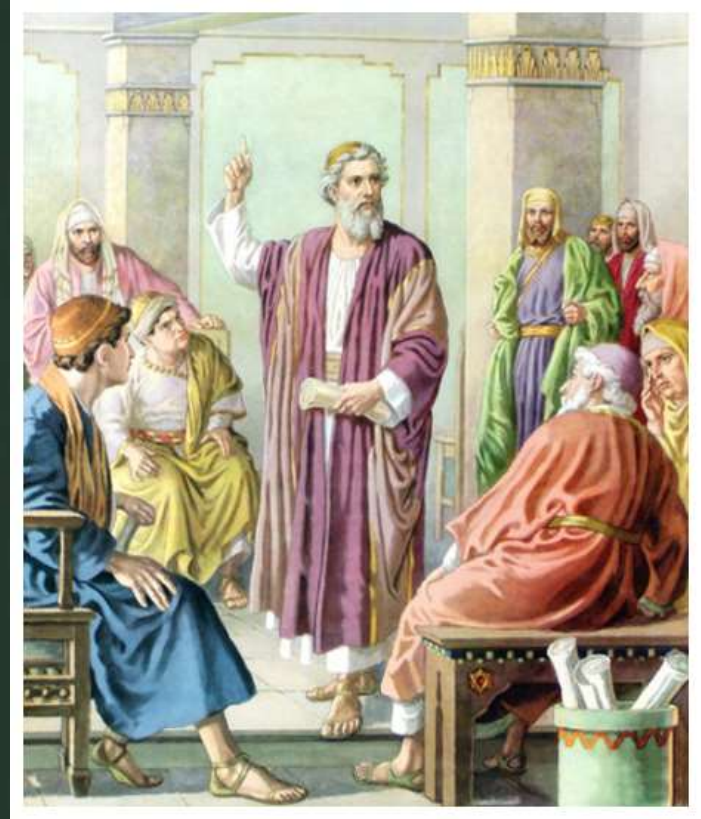


Such a contrast to the men on
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Acts 2:37:

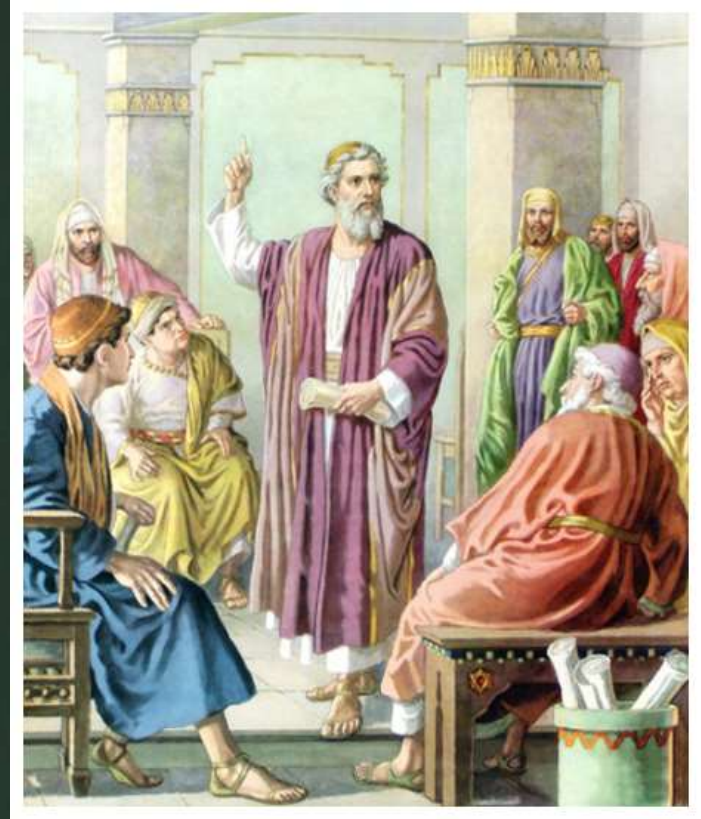
Now when they heard this,
they were pricked in their heart,
and said unto Peter and to the
rest of the apostles, Men *and*
brethren, what shall we do?

One wise counselor (whom we will later learn was a teacher to Saul of Tarsus) advised the council to leave these men in God's hands.



Acts 5:34-35

- ³⁴ Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space;
- ³⁵ And said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men.



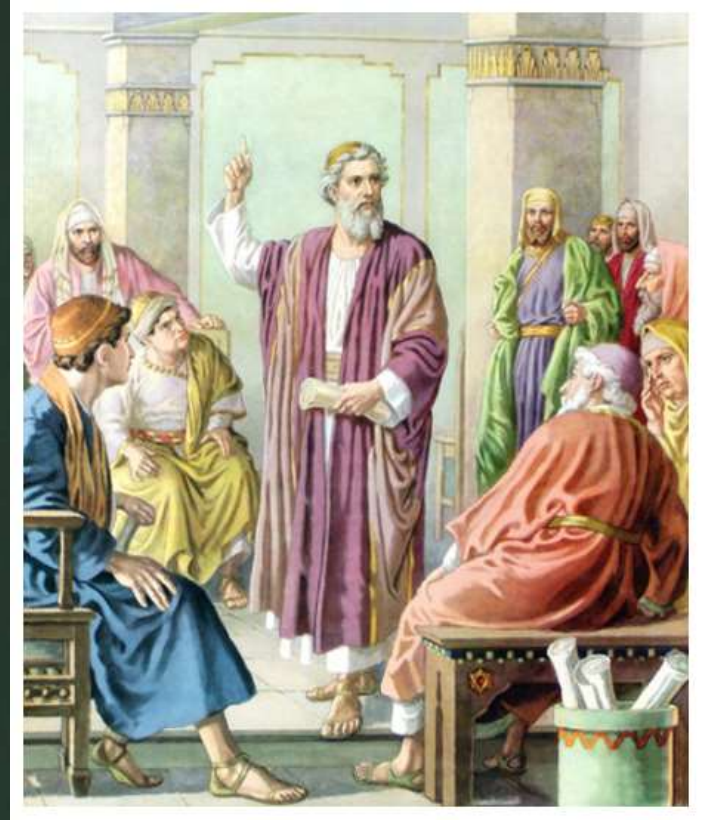
Acts 5:36-37

- ³⁶ For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought.
- ³⁷ After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed.



Acts 5:38-39

- 38 And now I say unto you,
Refrain from these men, and let
them alone:
for if this counsel or this work be
of men, it will come to nought:
39 But if it be of God, ye cannot
overthrow it; lest haply ye be
found even to fight against God.



Acts 5:40

⁴⁰ And to him they agreed:
and when they had called the
apostles, and beaten *them*,
they commanded that they
should not speak in the name of
Jesus, and let them go.



Acts 5:41-42

- ⁴¹ And they departed from the presence of the council,
rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.
- ⁴² And daily in the temple, and in every house,
they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

Acts 5:41-42

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rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.
- ⁴² And daily in the temple, and in every house,
they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

End of Chapter 5

UP NEXT:

As the work grows, so does the need
for ordained ministers –

one of whom becomes the first martyr
of the Christian era.

Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. According to Acts 5:9, what was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira?
2. According to Proverbs 16:6, what causes men to depart from evil?
3. In Acts 5:20, what was the angel's instruction to the apostles?
4. Give three examples of Bible stories that include angels.
5. In Acts 5:23, did the prison guards find the doors open or shut?
6. In Acts 5:25, what were the apostles found doing?
7. In Acts 5:26, why did the captain make a peaceful arrest?
8. In Acts 5:29, what was the apostles' answer to the council?
9. Who advised the council to leave the apostles alone?
10. In Acts 5:41, why did the apostles rejoice?

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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