

**"Satan's Persistence"**

**Part 2**

**Acts 5:12-42**

**Introduction:** Tonight in our study we will continue in Acts 5 where we are seeing Satan trying his best to discourage the church to stop the growth and to stop the spread of the Gospel. Last time we were together we were looking at how the people of the cities were coming with hopes that Peter's shadow would fall upon them. It was then that all were healed, and this then infuriated the religious leaders. They took the apostles, and they placed them in jail because the religious leaders were jealous. They wanted the attention and the praise the apostles were getting. Then the angel released them from jail and commanded them to go speak in the temple. To begin with tonight I want to revisit the command of the angel and the obedience of the apostles.

**I. The Miracle of the Jail Break**

**Notice Acts 5:18-21a**

The apostles were commanded to go to the temple and preach all the words of this life. The apostles did exactly what they were commanded to do. Do we really understand what situation this placed them in? This could very easily cost them their lives! So where did the courage come from to walk in obedience to the command of the angel?

These apostles understood that the LIFE that Jesus had for them apart from this world was far greater than the life they had in this world.

**Application:**

This is something that we as God's people need to grasp as we travel thru this world. The LIFE that we have in Christ apart from this world far exceeds anything in this present life. There is so much that awaits you and I when we finally close our eyes in death.

**1 Corinthians 2:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*

<sup>10</sup> *But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*

**Ephesians 2:5-7**

<sup>5</sup> *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

<sup>6</sup> *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

<sup>7</sup> *That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

The apostles had deep knowledge concerning this LIFE that is in Jesus and they understood some of what awaited them when they parted from this world. This knowledge was gained in their close walk with Jesus Christ. If we had the close walk like they did, we too would have a better understanding of what awaits us in eternity. The better the understanding the more it will change how we live. Let us notice a small glimpse of what awaits us.

#### **Revelation 7:13-17**

<sup>13</sup> *And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?*

<sup>14</sup> *And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

<sup>15</sup> *Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.*

<sup>16</sup> *They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.*

<sup>17</sup> *For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*

These are believers that are killed in the Tribulation, and we can see that they are comforted in the presence of the Lamb/Jesus Christ. When we as believers begin to grasp what awaits us in eternity/what awaits us in the next LIFE then we become more willing to give up this life for the sake of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul fully understood what the news LIFE entailed.

#### **Philippians 1:21**

<sup>21</sup> *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

**2 Corinthians 5:1, 2. 8**

*For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

<sup>2</sup> *For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:*

<sup>8</sup> *We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*

Getting back to the apostles here in Acts, they were living for their new life in Jesus Christ. They understood the Words from Revelation as recorded by John.

**Revelation 14:13**

<sup>13</sup> *And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.*

**Notice Acts 5:21-28**

When the apostles are brought before the Sanhedrin there are again threatened and are faced with two accusations in verse 28.

**1. They were accused of filling Jerusalem with their doctrine.**

This was a wonderful compliment! This was exactly what they were called to do. They were called to carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth, and it had to begin where they were. Wouldn't be great if it could be said of all churches that they had filled their church and their community with the doctrine of Jesus Christ? What a difference it would make in churches if the TRUE doctrines of God's Word were taught so that the people were filled with the Truth.

**2. They were blamed making the religious leaders accountable for the blood of Jesus Christ.**

Just several weeks before this they were willing to take responsibility for the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 27:22-25**

<sup>22</sup> *Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.*

<sup>23</sup> *And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.*

<sup>24</sup> *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.*

<sup>25</sup> **Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.**

The very thing they wished for had come to pass and now they were convicted by the words of the apostles. What these religious leaders did not know was that they were guilty and so was each one of us. We are all guilty of the blood of Jesus Christ because it was their sins and our sins that nailed Him to the cross.

### **1 John 2:1-2**

*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

<sup>2</sup> *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, **but also for the sins of the whole world.***

### **Romans 3:19**

<sup>19</sup> *Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that **every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.***

As the apostles stood before the Sanhedrin it was not that they wanted to bring the blood of Jesus to crush them with guilt, but they wanted to bring the blood of Jesus to see it applied to their hearts so that they would be saved.

### **Notice Acts 5:28-29**

The Sanhedrin would do their best to silence the apostles. They had commanded them not to teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter explained that there was a Higher Authority than the Sanhedrin and that was God. Peter knew that God's commands were to be top priority and that one day they would answer to God and not the Sanhedrin. Therefore, the apostles would obey God and not man.

### **Application:**

We have the responsibility to obey the governmental authorities that are over us.

### **Romans 13:1-5**

*Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*

<sup>2</sup> *Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.*

<sup>3</sup> *For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:*

<sup>4</sup> *For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.*

<sup>5</sup> *Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.*

Romans 13 is for us to live under unless the government oversteps its bounds. When that happens then we MUST obey God and not man. God is the Highest Authority, and we will answer to Him one day.

Let us now notice Peter's response.

#### **Notice Acts 5:30**

Peter wanted to be sure they were aware of their sin. It is interesting here that he says Jesus was hanged on a tree and not the cross. Why does Peter use this statement? He is speaking to the Jews, and they understood what it meant to be hanged on a tree.

#### **Deuteronomy 21:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> *And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree:*

<sup>23</sup> *His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.*

#### **Galatians 3:13**

<sup>13</sup> *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*

#### **Notice Acts 5:30-31**

Peter was saying, "You crucified Jesus, God raised Him from the grave and made Him your Savior to save you from your sins!" Peter was not trying to belittle the Sanhedrin he was sharing with the Truth with them so that they might be saved.

**Notice Acts 5:32**

God was extending His grace to these rulers because He longed for them to be saved. He had sent the apostles to testify and the Holy Spirit to convict them. This was all out of love for these men.

**Conclusion/Application:**

There is much for us to learn here but the main point is Peter's compassion. He was not angry with the Sanhedrin because they opposed the apostles. He did not attempt to use his knowledge to belittle them. But in the midst of all of this he still tried to win them to Jesus Christ.

What would our attitude have been? What is our attitude with people who are opposed to us for any reason? Sometimes we get angry and we just want to argue or belittle them if at all possible. When we are offended that is a great time to show the love of Jesus Christ. Peter had died to self and what we see is the life of Jesus in him.

**Luke 23:33-36**

<sup>33</sup> *And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.*

<sup>34</sup> *Then said Jesus, **Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.** And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.*

<sup>35</sup> *And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.*

<sup>36</sup> *And the soldiers also mocked him,*