

Acts 5:17 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,

- <u>18</u> And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.
- <u>19</u> 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.

<u>21</u> 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.

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.

<u>24</u> 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.

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.

<u>26</u> Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.

### I. THE ORGANIZATION

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Jn. 19:13 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha.

<u>14</u> And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!

<u>15</u> But they cried out, Away with *him*, away with *him*, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.

3. The Sudden Attack upon the Church, 5:17-42

a. The Ineffective Detention, 5:17-26

(1) The Apostles are Fettered, 5:17-18

## (a) Why They Were Imprisoned, 5:17

<u>Acts 5:17</u> 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,

The Holy Spirit filled the believers;

Satan had filled Ananias and Sapphira;

 Indignation filled the Sanhedrin members, particularly the Sadducees.

### **Original Word:** ζῆλος **Transliteration:** zelos **Definition:** (a) eagerness, zeal, enthusiasm, (b) jealousy, rivalry, indignation.

 $z \acute{e} los$  (an omamopoeic term that mimics the sound of water bubbling over from heat and perhaps derived from  $z \acute{e} o$ , "to boil") – properly, burning emotion (inner feeling boiling over, "boiling from heat," J. Thayer); (figuratively) something very *fervent* ("red-hot") as with Spirit-fueled zeal to *serve the Lord*. This root (z e-) is used both negatively ("jealousy") and positively ("zeal") depending on *the context*.

[The root ( $z\bar{e}$ -, "zeal") literally means, "hot enough to *boil*." It is metaphorically used of "burning anger, love, zeal" (A-S) – i.e. *to burn* (*in spirit*). It can refer to "*boiling anger, love, zeal*, for what is good or bad" (J. Thayer).] <u>http://biblehub.com/greek/2205.htm</u>

<u>Indignation</u> = strong displeasure at something considered unjust, offensive, insulting, or base; righteous anger.

(b) Where They Were Imprisoned, 5:18

Acts 5:18 And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.

(2) The Apostles are Freed, 5:19-21a

(a) Deliberately – by a Miracle, 5:19

Acts 5:19 But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,

Isa. 51:10 Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over?

## Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

<u>Mt. 17:20</u> And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

<u>2 Cor. 5:7</u> (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

(b) Designedly – for a Ministry, 5:20-21a

Acts 5:20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life. 21a "And when they heard *that*, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught..." Original Word: ἴστημι Transliteration: histémi Definition: trans: (a) I make to stand, place, set up, establish, appoint; mid: I place myself, stand, (b) I set in balance, weigh; intrans: (c) I stand, stand by, stand still; met: I stand ready, stand firm, am steadfast. http://biblehub.com/greek/2476.htm

Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ... 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; <u>1 Cor. 16:13</u> Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

(3) The Apostles are Found, 5:21b-25

(a) The Assembling of the Sanhedrin, 5:21b

Acts 5:21b "...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."

# (b) The Astonishment of the Sanhedrin, 5:22-25

i. Their Destiny, 5:22-23

Acts 5:22 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.

ii. Their Doubts, 5:24

<u>Acts 5:24</u> 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.

iii. Their Dilemma, 5:25

<u>Acts 5:25</u> Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.

Prov. 28:1 The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

#### (4) The Apostles are Fetched, 5:26

<u>Acts 5:26</u> Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.

Politicians, again, are concerned about the political fallout, not what is righteous!

Luke 20:19 And the chief priests and the scribes the same hour sought to lay hands on him; and they feared the people: for they perceived that he had spoken this parable against them.

Luke 22:2 And the chief priests and scribes sought how they might kill him; for they feared the people.

## Conclusion

Eph. 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.