

APRIL 2, 2024



*Today is a great day for your miracle!*

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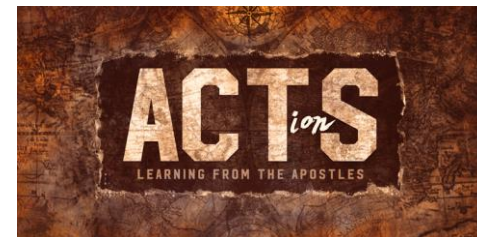
### **Mission Statement**

Christian Concepts Ministries seeks Creative and Innovative Ways to  
Expand the Kingdom of God and Fulfill the Great Commission

### **Lesson Notes:**

*A Study of Acts*

**Text: Acts 5:17-25**



### ***Quote of the Week***

*If you are ashamed to stand by your colors, you had better  
seek another flag.*

# Lesson Notes

## A Study of Acts

### Text: Acts 5:17-25

**Intro:** It is very interesting that when a person holds a belief, and is passionate about that belief, the reaction of that person when that belief is challenged. It is interesting that the Pharisees led the persecution against Jesus, but now the Sadducees lead this persecution against the apostles. Why? Jealousy, control, and because the apostles dared challenge their belief system.

#### I. Acts 5:17

- A. There are two things that are prominent in this passage.
  - 1. They were a sect of the Sadducees.
    - a. During the Maccabean period, Simon secured a treaty with Rome (139 B.C.). He gained for himself and his family official recognition as the high priestly order- political power became invested in the priesthood. This group became the Sadducees. The Sadducees formed the ruling or aristocratic party and were the major mediators or accommodators between the Jews and Rome.
    - b. Theologically, they denied the existence of angels, the doctrine of the resurrection of the body from the dead, and God working in supernatural ways.
    - c. Therefore, the miracles were a direct affront on their beliefs.
  - 2. They were Jealous.
    - a. They were envious of the popularity of the apostles.
    - b. This jealousy and envy led them to feelings of hatred toward the apostles.
    - c. This hatred caused them to act out.
      - 1) James 3:16
      - 2) Proverbs 6:34
      - 3) Proverbs 14:30.
    - d. The story of King Ahab
      - 1) 1 Kings 21:1-16
      - 2) Ahab's jealousy and envy led to Naboth's murder.
- B. Please notice the herd mentality- they conformed and did whatever the high priests did.

#### II. Acts 5:18-21a

- A. The Sadducees take quick action and have the apostles arrested again.
  - 1. It is interesting that in v. 18 the word used is τηρήσει δημοσίᾳ meaning "common hold or public ward or jail."
  - 2. However in v. 19 Luke uses the word φυλακῆς meaning "prison."
  - 3. Could it have been that they placed them in public holding for the sake of the people there, but then moved them to a harsher environment when out of sight of the people?
- B. During the night an angel releases them.
  - 1. I personally believe that it was an angel sent from heaven that liberated the apostles.
  - 2. However, it is true that the same Greek word ἄγγελος can be translated, "angel or messenger."
    - a. William Barclay believes that they were rescued by human means.
    - b. Although I believe this interpretation runs into problems with the messenger instructing the apostles, nonetheless, it would have still been miraculous to say the least- especially when you consider how they got past the guards.
  - 3. There are ministering spirits- Hebrews 1:14
- C. The Angel instructed the Apostles to preach the entire word of life.
  - 1. The Word of Life refers to the message of eternal life to lost and dying sinners.
  - 2. He was telling them not to compromise the message because of public and religious pressure.
  - 3. Recognizing this as from the Lord they obeyed.

#### III. Acts 5:21b-25

- A. They send to the prison house for the apostles.
  - 1. However, the apostles were gone, so the guards came back and reported.
  - 2. Upon inspection they found everything as it should have been, but the apostles were missing.
  - 3. Again, they are confronted with the supernatural happenings and miracles of God- which they reject.
  - 4. The word perplexed can be translated "at their wits end, or they were at a loss."
- B. The news breaks that the apostles are teaching the people.