

Acts 5:21b–23 (NIV)

- 1) The leaders had let the apostles cool their heels in jail overnight.
- 2) Now, it was time to bring this mess to an end with another trial and punishment that would end it for good (so they thought).
- 3) Now, we don't know exactly what they thought they were going to do but, surprise, they don't have anyone in the jail to do it to!
- 4) The reaction of both the chief priests and the temple guards is quite interesting.
 - a) They don't begin by asking who let these men out or even attempting to consider what the guards on the doors might have to say.
 - b) Their question is not – Hey what happened, where did these guys go, or how did this happen?
 - c) Instead it was – Uh Oh! What is this going to lead to?
- 5) To me, the indication is that despite their attempts to deter all this – they saw the miraculous release for exactly what it was – God's hand is in this and ***“we are going to have a problem!”***
- 6) And now, their problem is going to become even more acute!
- 7) Moving on to verse 25 we find ...

Acts 5:25–26 (NIV)

- 1) We must note here – the location changes per the angel's command – we are moving to the courts – not outside in the colonnade area as before.
 - a) To stay with our musicians and Carnegie Hall analogy, we are moving from the street outside Carnegie Hall to the lobby – big difference!
- 2) Obviously, this does not sit well with those in charge. The disciples are playing in their sandbox and they do NOT like it one bit.
- 3) So, it doesn't take long for them to get an answer as to “what this is going to come to” – more of the same teachings and problems they have been dealing with.
 - a) In the temple courts, however, this problem is much more serious!
- 4) Of course, their reaction doesn't change – they arrest them again and bring them into the Sanhedrin.
- 5) I find it interesting that the captain and his officers brought the apostles “quietly” because they were afraid of being stoned themselves.
- 6) Obviously, they knew the apostles were teaching what the people wanted to hear.

- 7) It is also obvious that any attempt by the Sanhedrin to squelch the apostles' preaching would also cause a problem with the people – a problem which, at this point anyway, the Sanhedrin did not appear to care about..
- 8) O.K. – what do we do now? ...

Acts 5:27–28 (NIV)

- 9) The Sanhedrin is in a state of denial.
- 10) They have “given orders” for what that’s worth to the apostles NOT to preach in THIS NAME.
 - a) It appears that they won’t even say the name of Jesus.
- 11) It is all the apostles fault – they are the ones who are filling Jerusalem with their preaching.
- 12) We might want to notice here that the high priest points to nothing specific about what they are preaching other than...
- 13) “... determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood” –
 - a) Again, note, he does NOT say the name of Jesus!
- 14) The whole idea of this short summary by the high priest and his counsel was to condemn these men for preaching something radical in a place where it made these guys very uncomfortable.
- 15) Instead, it simply sounds like they are crying ...
- 16) “(Boo Hoo), we’ve done nothing wrong and you guys need to stop blaming us”.
- 17) Weak at best, pathetic at worst – especially when we consider the fact that everyone in that room knew the absolute truth about what was done and by whom!
 - a) They were absolutely guilty of the death of “this MAN”
- 18) So, now, we move from the weak (high priest’s comments) to – “IN YOUR FACE” Strong!!!!

Acts 5:29–33 (NIV)

- 19) Peter steps immediately into answering each point they just made.
- 20) Boldly and clearly, he states emphatically that they are being commanded by God to preach as they are.
- 21) The fact that what their preaching is disturbing to these religious leaders doesn’t change that fact.
 - a) What the members of the Sanhedrin want cannot override God’s will.
- 22) Peter is as bold in stating the truth about his Lord as the high priest was reluctant to even say the name.
- 23) He clearly states that they, the Sanhedrin and all the men in that room, were the ones who hung Jesus on the cross and killed Him.
 - a) They might not have lifted him in place or have driven the nails but they were the ones who planned and made the crucifixion happen – it is squarely on them.

24) He is equally clear when he states that God raised Him from the dead.

25) And then, he really lands the final blow!

26) In two simple sentences, Peter delivers to the Sanhedrin the proclamation of true heart of the message they have been preaching to all who would listen throughout Jerusalem.

“³¹ God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. ³² We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

27) How much clearer and more pointed could Peter have been?

28) And, of course, there is not a single hint of change in their reaction – They simply want to kill them just like they did the guy whose name they wouldn’t say.

Multiple Choice Question:

Was Peter?

- A. Fearless and Confident**
- B. Calm**
- C. Arrogant**
- D. All of the above**

Why?

Do we have that same Fearless, Confident, and/or Calm nature about us when someone challenges our faith?

Why? Why Not?

What about when we have an opportunity to share Christ with others – do we have that same Fearless, Confident, and/or Calm nature?

Why? Why Not?

If NOT then two questions

Do we want it?

How do we get it?