

With Sister Paulette Morrison
on October 17, 2021

DISCOVERING THE POWER OF THE WORD

A Reading and Listening Session

ACTS 5



On Sunday evening, October 17, 2021, a powerful Reading and Listening session was held, diving into the book of Acts, chapter 5. The session explored themes of obedience, deception, and divine intervention, all centered around the unwavering power of God's word. Here's a glimpse into the key verses and the discussions they sparked:

The Story Unfolds: Acts 5

The reading commenced with the unsettling account of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-3, 7-9). This couple, after selling a piece of property, secretly kept back some of the proceeds for themselves while pretending to donate the entire amount to the community of believers.

Verse 3: But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back for yourself part of the proceeds from the land?"

The session then transitioned to the incredible miracles performed by the apostles (Acts 5:12, 16), demonstrating God's power working through them. However, this divine display ignited the jealousy of the high priest and his associates, leading to the apostles' imprisonment (Acts 5:17-18).

But the story took a dramatic turn! An angel of the Lord supernaturally opened the prison doors and commanded them to continue preaching in the temple (Acts 5:19-20). The apostles, obedient to God, did exactly that. When the Sanhedrin discovered their empty jail cells, they were astounded. News came that the apostles were teaching in the temple, defying their orders (Acts 5:25). Peter and the apostles boldly declared, "We must obey God rather than people!" (Acts 5:29). *Verse 32*: We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

The reading concluded with the wise counsel of Gamaliel, a respected teacher of the law (Acts 5:34-35, 38-39). He cautioned the Sanhedrin against rash action, suggesting that if this movement was merely of human origin, it would eventually fail on its own. However, if it was truly from God, they would be fighting against God himself.

Key Discussion Points

Obedience to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:32):

- The emphasis on prioritizing obedience to God above human authority.
- The role of the Holy Spirit in guiding and empowering believers.

Dishonesty (Acts 5:1-2):

- The severe consequences of lying and deception, even with seemingly good intentions.
- The importance of integrity and transparency in our dealings.

Jail Break (Acts 5:19-20):

- A reminder of God's power to intervene in impossible situations.
- Even in confinement or hardship, God's message can continue to spread.

Satan the Deceiver (Acts 5:3):

- Recognizing the influence of Satan in tempting us towards sin and dishonesty.
- The need for discernment and resisting temptation through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Touch Not the Lord’s Anointed (Acts 5:35):

- Gamaliel's warning served as a reminder that opposing what comes from God is a futile endeavor.

In Summary

This 'Reading & Listening Session' on Acts 5 provided valuable insights into the early church, reminding participants of the importance of obedience, honesty, and recognizing God's power at work. The story highlighted the consequences of disobedience and the miraculous ways God intervenes to protect and empower those who follow Him. Gamaliel's wise counsel served as a call to discernment and caution against opposing what may be of divine origin.