

# “WHAT WILL COME OF THIS?”

Acts 5:17-32

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## INTRODUCTION

What were the leaders of Judaism going to do about this movement? Where would all of this end? Or to put the question in the words of the Sanhedrin members themselves, “What will come of this?” (v. 24) Looking back from the perspective of 2,000 years we can see exactly what has come of this: “Christianity” is the largest religious movement in the world. Yes, there are counterfeit rivals, and much of so called Christianity is doctrinally in grievous error, but the genuine faith has continued to grow throughout the centuries.

Is the faith growing in your heart? Is the gospel growing in our church? Is the truth growing in our community? Are we seeing the powerful manifestation of the Spirit today—not with apostolic miracles, but with miracles of conversion and regeneration?

**You must be a part of the powerful spread of the gospel message.**

In this passage we see a *powerful but frustrated attempt of the adversaries of the Faith to put a stop to the spread of “Christianity”* through the Arrest of the Apostles, the Deliverance of the Apostles, and the Arraignment of the Apostles.

### I. ARREST OF THE APOSTLES (17-18)

Yes, the apostles were put in a public jail awaiting a trial the next day once the Sanhedrin could be assembled—*however, the Lord had other ideas and His work could not be thwarted by mere men—even powerful officials.*

### II. DELIVERANCE OF THE APOSTLES (19-21a)

A. An angel, unknown to the guards, opened the gates and took out the apostles.

- Not “the Angel of the Lord”
- No natural explanation
- Not to be confused with chapter 12
- Not a “worthless miracle”

B. An order to resume preaching in the temple.

- \_\_\_\_\_: They are to “stand” and “continue to speak to the people”—where they had left off when arrested!
- \_\_\_\_\_: The preaching was to be public—in the temple
- \_\_\_\_\_: “All the words”—the entire message.

- \_\_\_\_\_: “This life” (Christ)—Compare “this salvation” in 13:26 and Jn. 6:68—“You have the words of Eternal life.” and Jn. 14:6—“I am the . . . life.”
- \_\_\_\_\_: Daybreak—no delay—they began to teach in the temple.  
***When God opens the door, no man can shut it (Rev. 3:8)***

The Lord’s work will go on despite man’s opposition; however, the wicked rulers had not given up on their plan to put a stop to the preaching about Christ.

### III. ARRAIGNMENT OF THE APOSTLES (21b-28)

#### A. Assembly of the Court (21b-25)

- The temple guard officers (police) went but no prisoners were inside; how do **twelve** men mysteriously disappear that way when the prison doors are still securely locked and the guards still on watch (23)?
- The captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were “greatly perplexed”—utterly at a loss.
- “What this would become”—extreme uncertainty. **What will come of this?**
- They likely were concerned that the apostles had supporters from within their own ranks.
- Someone reported that the men who were supposed to be in prison were teaching the people in the temple—the very thing they were forbidden to do, and for which they had been arrested!

#### B. Arraignment (26-28)

- He charged them with violation of the strict orders given previously to Peter and John to refrain from any teaching, preaching, or even speaking in the name of Jesus (4:17, 18, 21).
  1. They had ignored the orders and instead “**filled Jerusalem with your teaching.**”
  2. They intended to bring “blood guilt” upon the Jewish leaders” (cf. 4:10, 5:30). However, this is exactly what they had earlier declared before Pilate (Mt. 27:25). *Notice that they totally ignored the prison escape—it was too embarrassing for them—especially for the Sadducees who did not even believe in angels!*

#### C. The Answer of the Apostles (29-32)

Once again Peter is the spokesman for the entire group who were unified in the response: “**We must obey \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_.**” [When a choice must be made]

- They had **God as their supporter**—He is the one who “raised up Jesus”—both bringing Him to earth and to His ministry (e.g. Jud. 2:18; 3:9, 15) and especially raising Him up from the \_\_\_\_\_.

- By contrast, they had put Him to death—“hanging him on a cross.” Note the OT notation of a curse upon one executed and hung upon a tree (Dt. 21:23; cf. Gal. 3:13)
- God not only raised Him up from the grave, He continued to **exalt Him to His \_\_\_\_\_ of authority and power (31)**.
  1. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_—Forerunner, source, leader! (3:15)
  2. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_—He delivers from sins those who call on Him.
  3. He gives **the \_\_\_\_\_** of repentance and forgiveness of sins. We do not work up repentance—the opportunity and ability to do so comes from the Holy Spirit. **Forgiveness is a great gift from God.**
  4. There are TWO WITNESSES to the truth of their teaching: They themselves and the \_\_\_\_\_. How is the Holy Spirit a witness?
    - Inwardly by conviction in hearers’ hearts
    - Through the miraculous signs He worked by the apostles
    - Through the revelatory teaching of the apostles
    - **Really then, it is the Holy Spirit who is on trial!**
  5. God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him through belief--faith. Such obedience is called “the obedience of faith.”

#### CONCLUSION

What powerful preaching; what a powerful message! No earthly authorities could stop the message of the Gospel.

**What will come of this for you? Do you have the obedience of faith?**

*Is His word still spreading in you and through you?*