



Liberty Baptist Church Scripture Reflections

The Viral Church (Part 4)

Life Group Discussion
May 10, 2020

This Discussion Guide is prepared to help believers apply the truths of Scripture to life. As you prepare, make sure you have read the Scripture text and listened to the Sermon. If you missed the Sermon, go to www.experienceliberty.org and select the Sermon title listed above.

Sermon Bible Verses: [Acts 5](#)

In **Acts 5: 12-16** we read how through the Apostles signs and wonders being performed. Many people had gathered around them who were sick, and believers were being added to the Lord. This sounds like what should have been happening in their time and ours. Yet in verse 17 we read the Apostles were imprisoned for their preaching!

- In today's "modern" church how would we respond to a revival of signs and wonders being performed? Would we shout fake! Would we say it was a trick?
- What does the title of Apostle mean by definition? Who named the men following Jesus Apostles?

See Luke 6:13

Act 5:17-18 *Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison.*

Generally, in a gang there is one leader. In this case the leader of the religious party was the high priest. Sadducees were the anti-supernaturalists (no angelic or demonic spirits, no resurrection, etc.) who wanted to maintain their political ties with Rome.

- When the Gospel is affecting others, you can be sure someone will rise up against it. In verse 17 the high priest is in effect reacting to a perceived threat to his religious life and leadership. Why do you think he felt the need to take a stand?
- By definition the Sadducees and high priest were jealous of the Apostles. Describe the devastating effects of jealousy in a marriage or any relationship.
- Read Matthew 27:18 to give an example of what jealousy does.

Acts 18 tells us the Apostles were put in the common prison. *...and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison.*

- A common prison was one that was public. What kind of statement does that make about the motives of the Sadducees? Were the Apostles to be made a public exhibition?
- Think about this for a moment -- what would be the effect of this arrest on the disciples looking on? Fear? Intimidation? Hesitancy about sharing the Gospel? How would it effect your witness?

Acts 19-20: *But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 20 "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."*

- I want you to understand from this verse that when you think circumstance has put you in prison; God can set you free. ***With that freedom comes expectation.***
- Look at verse 20 above and describe what that expectation is and how you will fulfill it.

Acts 22-23: *But when the officers came and did not find them in the prison, they returned and reported, 23 saying, "Indeed we found the prison shut securely, and the guards standing outside before the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside!"*

How often are we freed of some besetting sin, only to return the prison of that same sin?

- When Jesus releases you from your prison, as in verse 23 above, the prison doors are shut securely. Why would you go back to a prison that has been shut?
- What common prison do all men and women face? (sin)

29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men"

- How is remarkable liberation and power gained? Obedience.

The witnessing power of the Holy Spirit is released through obedience to Christ, to the Word, to the inner voice of his guidance. Some good self-check questions are: (1) Am I living consistently in view of what I know about Christ? (2) Am I living a life that is in accord with what I am learning in the Scriptures? (3) Am I refusing to do what I know he wants? (4) Am I refusing to share my faith because of fear of rejection or appearing unintellectual or uncultured or any other reason?

- Share how your life reveals the power of the Holy Spirit in you.

We cannot have the power of the Holy Spirit if we are saying "NO" to Him.