

Witnesses to Christ
Studies in the Acts of the Apostles

A Work of God
Lesson 5
Acts 5:12-6:15

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
January 31, 2016

The Acts of the Apostles

- ▶ A transition
 - The Nation Israel/Law of Moses
 - The Holy Spirit/Church/Gospel
- ▶ Validation of Apostolic Ministry
 - Signs and wonders
 - Apostles of Christ – 12 disciples + Paul
 - Historical background for New Testament revelation

The Acts of the Apostles

- ▶ The Law of Moses
- ▶ The life of the believing community – the Church
- ▶ Outline
 - In Jerusalem (1-7) – 2 years
 - In Judea and Samaria (8-12) – 13 years
 - To the end of the earth (13-28) – 14 years

The Message of Acts

- ▶ Jesus rejected and killed in Jerusalem
- ▶ God raised Him from the dead
- ▶ Jesus is the Son of God – the Christ
- ▶ Forgiveness of sins through Him
- ▶ Outpouring of the Holy Spirit
- ▶ According to the Scriptures

A Work of God (Acts 5:12 – 6:15)

- ▶ Commission (1) – wait for the Holy Spirit, then go!
- ▶ Pentecost (2) – the coming of the Holy Spirit
- ▶ Opposition (3-4) – the offense of Jesus and resurrection
- ▶ Holiness (5:1-11) – the fear of God
- ▶ A Work of God (5:12-6:15) – Spiritual warfare intensifies

A Work of God (Acts 5:12 – 6:15)

- ▶ The believing community (5:12-16)
- ▶ The ministry – witnessing (5:17-32)
- ▶ The opposition (5:33-40)
- ▶ The ministry – ministering (6:1-7)
- ▶ The minister – Stephen (6:8-15)

The Believing Community (5:12-16)

- ▶ Summary statement (1:14; 2:42-47; 4:32-35; 5:12-16; 6:7; 9:31; 12:24; 19:18-20)
- ▶ Great fear in the Church and over all who heard (5:11)
- ▶ Many signs and wonders by the apostles
- ▶ Gathering with one accord
- ▶ None dare associate with them
- ▶ Held in high esteem
- ▶ More believers “constantly added”
- ▶ Seeking healing – the shadow of Peter

The Ministry – Witnessing (5:17-32)

- ▶ Apostles arrested by the high priest and Sadducees
 - Filled with jealousy (NASB)
 - The offense of the Gospel
- ▶ Apostles released by an angel of the Lord
- ▶ Charge to speak “the whole message of this life.”
- ▶ A discovery made without faith
 - “greatly perplexed”
 - “afraid of the people”
- ▶ The accusation: “. . . this man’s blood upon us.”

The Ministry – Witnessing (5:17-32)

- ▶ “We must obey God rather than men.”
- ▶ The resurrection of Jesus
- ▶ The sin of the Jews – execution of Jesus
- ▶ The result of their sin
 - Exaltation of Jesus as Prince and Savior
 - Repentance and forgiveness of sins to the Jews (Israel)
- ▶ The gracious witness of the apostles by the Holy Spirit

The Opposition (5:33-40)

- ▶ Murderous intent
- ▶ Gamaliel – a teacher of the Law
- ▶ “Wise counsel” based upon recent history
 - Theudas – “claiming to be somebody” . . . came to nothing
 - Judas of Galilee – “drew some people after him . . . perished
- ▶ Leave them alone!
- ▶ Good advice?
- ▶ The wisdom of man – foolishness with God
 - A false teacher of the Law
 - An unbeliever in the One True God
 - A thoroughly modern man – cannot know truth
- ▶ The Work of God is found in the Word of God

The Ministry – Ministering (6:1-7)

- ▶ A controversy in the church
 - The practice of providing for the needy (2:42-47; 4:32-37)
 - Hellenist Jews v. native Jews – care for widows
- ▶ The solution – 7 men to oversee this work
 - Good reputation
 - Full of the Spirit and wisdom
 - 7 Hellenist-Jews
 - Selected by the people and ordained by the apostles
- ▶ Deacons?
 - Philip and Stephen – preached
 - A pattern for ministry (deacons)
 - Nothing to hinder preaching and praying
 - Ministry led by Godly leaders

The Minister – Stephen (6:8-15)

- ▶ Increased disciples, including priests
- ▶ Stephen
 - Full of grace and power – 4:33 – pattern of Apostles
 - Great wonders and signs among the people
- ▶ Opposition from synagogue
 - Unable to refute his wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke
 - False accusations

A Work of God

- ▶ The authority of Scripture
- ▶ The power of the Holy Spirit
- ▶ The Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Nazarene
- ▶ Opposition without truth
- ▶ How to do the Work of God
 - Proclaim the Truth as it is in Jesus Christ, Son of God
 - The whole message of this life