

Conflict and Gospel Preaching
Acts 5:17-32
by Bob DeWaay

Gospel of Grace Fellowship July 26, 2015

The Sanhedrin Imprisons the Apostles
Acts 5:17, 18 (NASB)

But the high priest rose up, along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees), and **they were filled with jealousy**. They laid hands on the apostles and **put them in a public jail**.

“ There is now increased tension in the narrative
“ This was predicted by Jesus (Luke 21:12-19)
“ The Jewish Leadership is motivated by jealousy

Conflict and Gospel Preaching: Acts 5:17 – 32 2

Angelic Intervention
Acts 5:19, 20 (NASB)

But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said, “Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple **the whole message of this Life**.”

“ Irony = The Sadducees did not believe in angels!
“ The apostles are commissioned by God’s angel to preach the gospel

Conflict and Gospel Preaching: Acts 5:17 – 32 3

The Jail Is Empty

Acts 5:21 - 23 (NASB)

- They obey the angel's message and teach
- There is a meeting of the rulers of Israel, the Sanhedrin
- They send delegates to get the apostles out of jail
- There is no obvious reason why they are missing
- There is more irony as God is in control not the rulers of Israel

Conflict and Gospel Preaching: Acts 5:17 – 32 4

**The Apostles Preach
and the Sanhedrin Fears**

Acts 5:24 - 26 (NASB)

- The leadership is truly perplexed
- The apostles are preaching as if nothing had happened
- The Jewish leadership would like to be rid of the apostles, but they fear for their own lives
- The apostles continue to obey the angel's words and were "teaching the people"

Conflict and Gospel Preaching: Acts 5:17 – 32 5

The Sanhedrin Fears Blood Guilt

Acts 5:27, 28 (NASB)

When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and **intend to bring this man's blood upon us.**"

" See Matthew 27:20, 25
" They demand to be obeyed as if they spoke for God

Conflict and Gospel Preaching: Acts 5:17 – 32 6

Peter Again Preaches the Resurrection

Acts 5:29, 30 (NASB)

But Peter and the apostles answered, "We **must** obey God rather than men. **The God of our fathers raised up Jesus**, whom **you had put to death** by hanging Him on a cross."

- "Must" is *dei* which means "divine necessity" in Acts
- Peter preaches the only means by which the guilt they fear can be removed
- Jesus hung on "wood" so we can be blessed (Gal 3:13)

Conflict and Gospel Preaching: Acts 5:17 – 32

7

Repentance and Forgiveness of Sins

Acts 5:31, 32 (NASB)

"He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant **repentance to Israel**, and **forgiveness of sins**. And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."

- Peter leaves open the possibility of a repentant Israel
- The apostolic preaching of the gospel is the means the Holy Spirit uses to witness to the truth
- Psalm 110:1 is alluded to

Conflict and Gospel Preaching: Acts 5:17 – 32

8
