

***“All May Change”***  
***Acts 5:12-42***

**Introduction:**

1. Please Turn In Your Bibles With Me:
  - To Acts 5 - Where - Tonight - As We Continue:
    - Our Journey Through Acts:
      - We Come To Another Episode:
        - In The Life Of The Early Church:
          - That Shows Just How Quickly Things Can Change:
            - For God’s People!
2. It Is A Lot Like:
  - The Different Kinds Of Weather:
    - And The Seasons:
      - That We Experience:
        - Where The Only Constant:
          - Seems To Be Change!
- Especially Here In Indiana!
3. And So - With The Deaths:
  - Of Ananias & Sapphira Still Fresh:
    - In The Memories Of Both The Church:
      - And The Community - In & Around Jerusalem:
        - We Read This - 5:11 - “And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things!”
- But - After This:
  - The Church Begins To Experience:
    - A Fresh & New:

**1. *Season Of Great Comfort!***

- Which We Read About In - 5:12-16 - “And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s porch. / 13 And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. / 14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) / 15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. / 16 There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one!”
  - So Jesus Was Still At Work:
    - Using His People & Especially His Apostles To Do Powerful Works Of Healing, Both Physically & Spiritually!
  - And This Must Have Felt A Lot Like:
    - Spring-Time In The Church!
      - Everything Was New & Vibrant!
        - And Instead Of Going Into The World To Reach People For Christ:
          - The World Was Coming To Them - Even If It Was Just Out Of Curiosity!
  - But Even During This Season:
    - Of Comfort & Progress:
      - There Was Still A Mixed Response To The Apostles!
        - And We Can See Those Responses In 5:13-14!
- There Were Some:
  - Who Responded With Fear!
    - 5:13 - “And of the rest durst no man join himself to them!”
      - The Question We Come To In This Verse Is: Who Are “The Rest?”
  - It Seems To Refer To Those:
    - Who Had The Same Heart & Same Spirit As Ananias & Sapphira!
- And So - The Story Of Their Deaths:
  - Kept Others Away From The Church:
    - Out Of Fear - And In This Way, God Was Able To Keep His Church Pure!

- Also:

- There Were Some:
  - Who Responded With Favor!
    - 5:13 - “But the people magnified them!”
    - So - Others - The Common People - Were Curious About What Was Going On:
      - And Wanted To Get In On The Action! But How Long Would This Excitement & Interest Last? But:
- There Were Still Some:
  - Who Responded With Faith!
    - 5:14 - “And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women!”
- So - Even During This:
  - Season Of Comfort & Growth:
    - There Was A Mixed Response!
      - Even As There Is Today!
  - And So - Once Again:
    - The Only Constant Was Change!
      - And It Didn’t Take Too Long:
        - Before Another Season Took Its Place!
  - Because In 5:17-26 - We Read About A:

## 2. ***Season Of Great Confusion!***

- 5:17-26 - “Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation, / 18 And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison. / 19 But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, / 20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life. / 21 And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. / 22 But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told, / 23 Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within. / 24 Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow. / 25 Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people. / 26 ¶ Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned!”
  - So - All That Commotion:
    - In Jerusalem & In The Temple Itself:
      - Led Once Again:
        - To A Conflict With Both The Religious & The Political Leaders Of The Jews!
  - And It Became A Time Of Great Confusion!
    - The Leaders:
      - Were Confused:
        - Because They Didn’t Know What To Make About Or What To Do:
          - With The Apostles & With The Church!
      - In 5:24 - We Are Told That:
        - “They Doubted Of Them Whereunto This Would Grow!” - They Were Perplexed!
          - But - I Also Think That:
  - The Church:
    - Was Probably A Bit Confused As Well!
      - Because Even As The Apostles Were There In That “Common Prison” They Might Have Wondered:
        - Why Is This Happening To Us, Lord?
        - What Are We Doing Here, Lord?
        - Lord, How Are We To Continue?
  - But God Provided Clarity:
    - In The Middle Of Those Clouds Of Confusion:
      - When - 5:19-10 - “The angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, / 20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life!”
        - And How Did The Apostles Respond?
          - They Obeyed & Continued To Witness The Way They Were Told!

- They Spoke Faithfully!
  - They Went Back To:
    - The Same Place Where They Were Arrested!
    - Some Believe They Ventured Even Further Into The Temple!
  - And They Spoke:
    - The Same Things That Got Them In Trouble:
      - In The First Place!
- They Spoke Fearlessly!
  - The Lord Gave Them The Courage They Needed:
    - To Continue To “Speak . . . To The People All The Words Of This Life!”
    - The Gospel!
- Because - In Seasons Of Confusion:
  - There Are Still Things That Are Very Clear:
    - For God’s People!
      - We Still Have To - “Go & Stand & Speak” As The Apostles Did!
  - Even If & When:
    - That Season Of Confusion:
      - Leads To Another Season - Like A:

### 3. ***Season Of Great Conflict!***

- Which We Read About In - 5:27-28 - “And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, / 28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us!”
  - At This Point - The Apostles Might Have Felt:
    - That The Harshness Of The Winter Season:
      - Had Once Again Fallen Upon Them!
  - And Yet - God Graciously Gave Them:
    - The Strength They Needed:
      - To Withstand This Storm & Conflict As Well!
      - They Could Not Stop Speaking & Teaching In The Name Of Jesus Christ Because:
  - They Had A Greater Master!
    - 5:29 - “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men!”
    - And We Need To Remember:
      - That God Is Always Our Highest Authority!
  - They Had A Greater Message!
    - 5:30-31 - “The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. / 31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins!”
    - Even If People Don’t Want To Hear The Truth, Like Those Jewish Leaders:
      - We Still Have The Responsibility To Share The Truth!
    - The Leaders Said:
      - 5:28 - You - “Intend To Bring This Man’s Blood Upon Us!”
    - And The Apostles Said:
      - 5:30 - You Brought His Blood Upon Yourself - “Ye Slew And Hanged On A Tree!” Also:
  - They Had A Greater Mission!
    - 5:31 - “And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him!”
    - They Were - And We Are:
      - God’s Own “Witnesses Of These Things!”
      - And Our Witness Is Confirmed With The Witness Of God Himself, Through The Work Of The Holy Spirit!
  - So - Even If It Feels Like Winter:
    - Is Settling In Once Again - Even Like It Did This Morning - Remember That:
      - God Has Called Us To Remain “Stedfast, Unmoveable, Always Abounding In The Work Of The Lord!” (1 Corinthians 15:58)
    - But Then - We Also See Another Season, Which Is:

### 4. ***Season Of Great Contemplation!***

- When It Seemed As If Someone In The World:
  - Became A Friend To The Church! Which Is What It Must Have Felt Like:
- In 5:33-42 - “When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them. / 34 Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space; / 35 And said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men. / 36 For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought. / 37 After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed. / 38 And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: / 39 But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God!”
  - At This Point - Things Are Looking Good:
    - Once Again For The Church!
      - In His Providence, God Used The Common Sense Wisdom Of Gamaliel:
        - To Give His Church Some Time & Space To Heal & To Grow!
  - But Even This:
    - Did Not Prevent Further Conflict!
      - Even Though In The Next Verse, 5:40 - We Read - “And to him they agreed!” - It Is Clear That They Did Not Agree Entirely!
  - Because In The Same Breath We Read:
    - 5:40 - “And when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go!”
  - So - For A Moment:
    - It Seemed Like The Storm Clouds Had Drifted Away!
      - But It Didn’t Take Long At All For The Next Front To Blow Right On In!
- But How Did The Apostles Respond?
  - 5:41-42 - “And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. / 42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ!” So:
- Instead Of Sorrowing:
  - They Rejoiced!
- Instead Of Leaving:
  - They Returned! And:
- Instead Of Silence:
  - They Repeated Their Words:
    - And “Ceased Not To Teach And Preach Jesus Christ!

## Conclusion:

1. One Thing We Can Learn From:
  - These Verses Is That:
    - The Church Must Learn To *Expect*:
      - The *Unexpected* In This World!
        - Because:
  - There Might Still Be:
    - Seasons Of Comfort Or Confusion:
      - Or Conflict Or Contemplation:
        - Even As There Was At The Temple:
          - In Those Days!
  - And The Atmosphere In Which We Live & Worship & Serve:
    - May Change As Suddenly Today:
      - As It Did Then!
2. But We Need To Remember That:
  - God Can Still Use Whatever Season We Are In:
    - To Further The “Words Of This Life” - As We:
      - Respond In Faith & Faithfulness To Him!
  - So - Yes - *All May Change!*
    - Even In A Single Place:

- And On A Single Day!  
- But As Christians - We Can Be Confident That:  
- Even Though: ***All May Change!***  
- ***But Jesus Never!***  
- ***Glory To His Name!***

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