

## THE SANHEDRIN'S OPPOSITION TO THE APOSTLES - Acts 5:17-33

041121A

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1. A3 - healing lame man: proclaim Jesus' death & resurrection. A4 - opposition to *he name* of resurrected Jesus: v4, 19, 18, 30 - A4:33.
2. Why is *the name of Jesus Christ* so disruptive, unsettling?
  - i. Powers & principalities - Lk 4:34; 2C 4:4-5.
  - ii. Human authorities - court scenes in Acts
  - iii. Authority: Jesus' claims to deity + resurrection to God's throne as Lord: Son of God; Son of David, the Messiah - Lord & Judge of mankind.
3. Opposition of Sanhedrin seen in Jewish provocations. We acknowledge this w/o charge of anti-Semitism. This is the provocation of apostasy. Gentile authorities are no less evil in their idolatry.
4. Apostles continue to preach & opposition from Sanhedrin intensifies.

#### 1st: The Community Formed by the Resurrected Lord

1. Church in Jerusalem pray - 4:23ff. 4:31-35 Community of truth & love
  - i. [4:36-37] Joseph [Barnabas] example of love
  - ii. [5:1-10] Ananias & Sapphira: false love: lie to HS
2. 5:11-16 foundational time; v12 [2C 12:12]. Peter - 2:41-42, 47

#### 2nd: The Sadducees Imprison The Apostles - A 5:17-18

1. Sadducees reject resurrection - motive: *filled w/ jealousy* [Mk 15:10]
  - i. positive - jealous for what is good [II<sup>nd</sup> & III<sup>rd</sup>c - Jn 2:17]
  - ii. negative: jealous = desire what another has & want for self - Sanhedrin same disposition when murdered Jesus - cf A13:45
2. Leaders whose only concern is power - not for good of people.
3. v22 - toss in jail for 2<sup>nd</sup> time [A3:3].

#### 3rd: An Angel Sends Apostles to Preach - A 5:19-25

1. Irony: *angel* releases prisoners [Sads not believe in angels] [Hb 1:14]
  - i. Hb 13:1-2 entertained Ab & angels [Gn 18].
  - ii. Reality of spiritual beings: good & bad - best posture = piety - 1C 11:3
2. Nameless angel releases apostles - v20

- i. *Go* - Grt Com [*Go & make discs...*] *stand & speak* [Sanhed prohibited in A4:17] *in temple* [jurisdiction of Sads] *to the people* [civil disobd?]
- ii. *all* [not some] *the words* [spoken] *of this life* - res life given by HS of res'd Lord Jesus. Discipleship [1Jn 1:1-3] - A3:15 *Prince of Life*
3. v21: *began to teach*: what? *this life* as seen in A2 & A3. Facts re: Jesus interpreted by OT & summons to repent & follow.
4. Sanhed learns apostles are *standing in temple teaching people* [v25 = v20]

#### 4th: The Sanhedrin Retry the Apostles - A 5:26-33

1. Temple guard diplomatically retrieves apostles back to court: Annas [hi priest] *questions* them - still adverse to *this name*.
  - i. What concerned the Sanhed? Indictment of murder of Jesus.
  - ii. Irony: *this man's blood*. Salvation = applic of of Jesus' blood [A4:12].
2. v29 recalls A4:19-20
3. 5:30-32 - emph on Jesus' resurrection: promises to Ab; Ps 110 - 3:15. Jesus reigns over a kingdom of redemption: gives *repentance to Israel*. Recall Lk 24:43-48 proclaim salvation in Jesus' name as Jesus' witnesses
  - i. v32 - *witness* w/ HS's witness - salvation by Triune God
4. v33 - *cut to heart* [A2:37; 7:54]. In A4:2, *disturbed*; now hate: *kill them*.
5. v34-39 Gamaliel [A22:3] - expediency: wait & see
6. v40-42 1<sup>st</sup> time, not punish [4:21] now *flogged*; rejoice in suffering for Jesus; expand & continue preaching - v41 *His name*

#### Applic #1: Who is Triumphant in this Conflict?

1. Strategy of Sons of Most High - gospel love. Ps 110:1,2 *make your enemies a footstool... rule in the midst of your enemies* [A2:34f]. We see Jesus' *enemies* - can we perceive His *rule*?
2. How can apostles continue preaching? rejoicing? They're overcoming.

#### Applic #2: Stay on Message

1. Peter preaches from different OT texts, but preaches same message: death & res of Jesus interpreted by OT; relies on HS to convict & summons to repent & follow Jesus.
2. Apostle's witness must be our message. Stay on message.