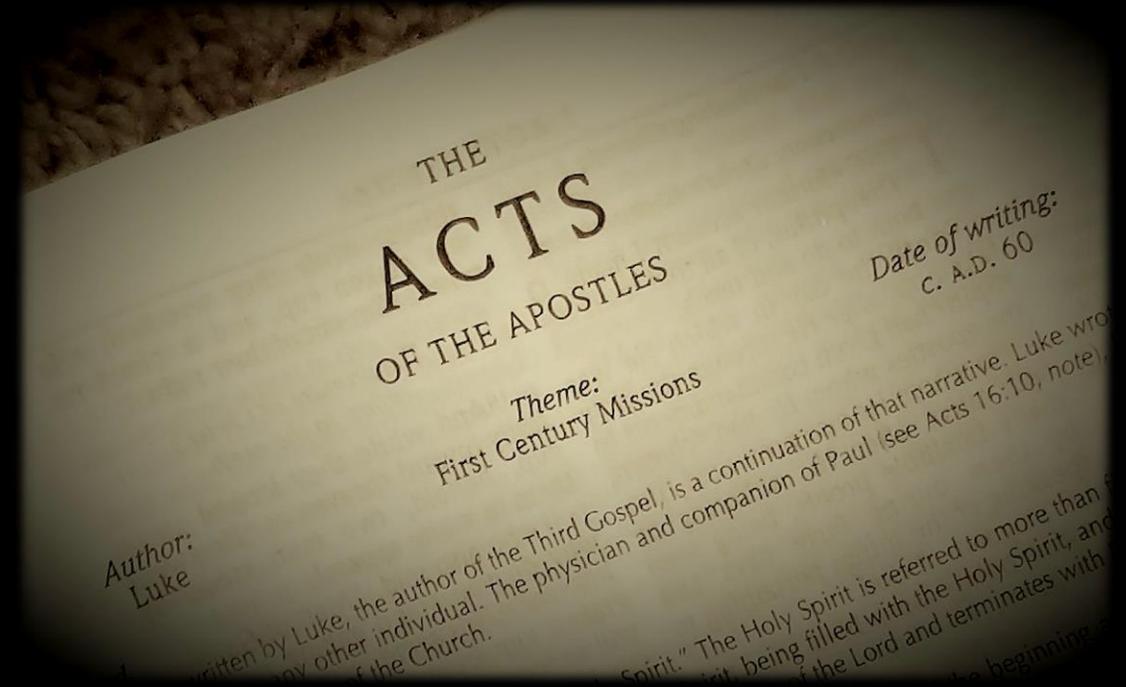


# Verse by Verse

## Acts 5



Previously in *Acts*

## Previously in Acts

- In **Acts 4**, we saw Peter and John bearing witness to Jesus Christ before **the council**, or the *Sanhedrin*.
- Luke then described how believers met one another's needs through sharing what they had.
- He ended by showing us the example of a man named **Joseph** or **Barnabas** a Levite and native of Cyprus.
- He sold a field and brought the money **to the apostles**.

# Acts 5 Introduction

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- Barnabas was a good example of someone sharing their property with the church.
- This chapter begins with a bad example.
- We will also see more of how the apostles continued their ministry despite official opposition.

# Acts 5    Key Verse

## Acts 5    Key Verse

- Acts 5:42 (ESV)

And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

# Acts 5 Outline

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1. Ananias and Sapphira 5:1-11
2. Signs and Wonders 5:12-16
3. Arrest and Release 5:17-26
4. More Questioning 5:27-32
5. Gamaliel's Counsel 5:33-42

# 1. Ananias and Sapphira 5:1-11

# 1. Ananias and Sapphira 5:1-11

- 5:1-2 kept back This word is used in only one other place in the New Testament.
- That place is Titus 2:10, where the ESV and NKJV both translate it as “pilfering.”
- It is also in LXX of Joshua 7:1, for the sin of Achan, who kept goods set apart for the Lord for himself.

# 1. Ananias and Sapphira 5:1-11

- 5:3-4 did it not remain your own? ... was it not at your disposal?
- The sin of Ananias was not so much in keeping back some of the money, but **misrepresenting his gift**.
- His lie was a form of **hypocrisy** since he wanted to be seen as giving the whole price and not only part.
- He wanted to be seen as more generous than he was.

# 1. Ananias and Sapphira 5:1-11

- 5:3-4 lie to the Holy Spirit ... You have lied not to man but to God
- Peter's words equate lying to the Holy Spirit, who is present within the church, to lying to God.
- This points to the deity of the Holy Spirit.

# 1. Ananias and Sapphira 5:1-11

- 5:5-10 This passage, which includes both sin and quick judgment from God, reminds us of two things.

1. The church has always been imperfect.

- We sometimes forget that the early church had to deal with sin.

2. God desires a pure church.

- The swift judgment upon sin makes this obvious.

# 1. Ananias and Sapphira 5:1-11

- 5:11 And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.
- This is Luke's first use of the word "church," which means an assembly or congregation.
- It never appears in the Gospel of Luke, though it does appear twice in Matthew.

## 2. Signs and Wonders 5:12-16

## 2. Signs and Wonders 5:12-16

- The apostles continued to have a ministry in which God worked miracles through them in public.
- **Solomon's Portico** was part of the temple complex.
- **Peter ... his shadow** This may sound a little superstitious to us.
- God often deals with people on their own level, like the woman who touched Christ's garment (**Mark 5**).

### 3. Arrest and Release 5:17-26

### 3. Arrest and Release 5:17-26

- This story is almost humorous as it shows us one of God's angels outwitting the high priest and his crew.
- Three things we should make note of:
  1. The motive of the high priest and Sadducees was **jealousy (v.17)**.
- They were less concerned with the truth or with God's will being done than with their own reputation.

### 3. Arrest and Release 5:17-26

- This story is almost humorous as it shows us one of God's angels outwitting the high priest and his crew.
- Three things we should make note of:
  2. They also were afraid of the people (v.26).
- Their reputation was at stake either way.
- They did not want the church to succeed, but they were also afraid to wipe them out.

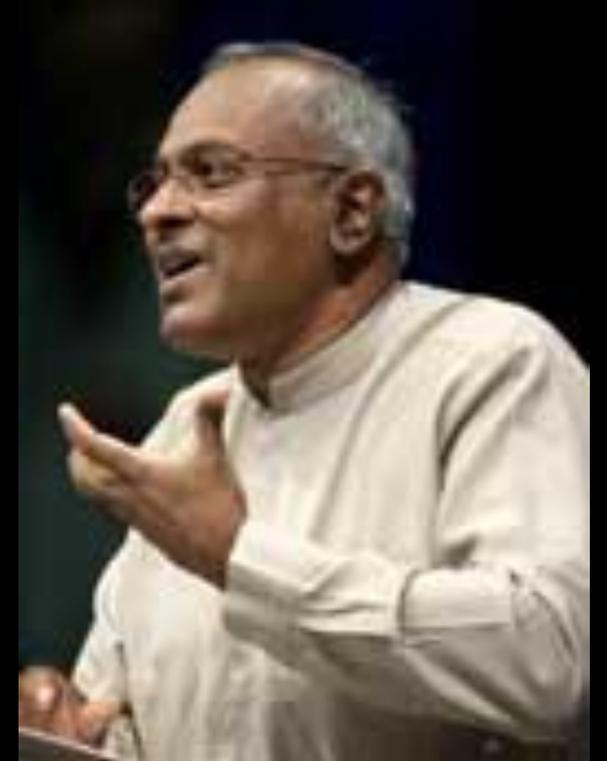
## 3. Arrest and Release 5:17-26

- This story is almost humorous as it shows us one of God's angels outwitting the high priest and his crew.
- Three things we should make note of:
  3. The **apostles** (maybe all 12 this time) were deeply committed to **evangelism**.

### 3. Arrest and Release 5:17-26

*This whole passage pulsates with the urgency of the evangelistic task. The apostles are arrested for evangelizing (v.18). But after their miraculous release the angel tells them to go to the center of Jewish religion, the temple, and proclaim “the full message” ... (v.20).<sup>1</sup>*

*– Ajith Fernando,  
Youth for Christ, Sri Lanka*



### 3. Arrest and Release 5:17-26

- Opposition to the Gospel seems to only make the apostles more determined.
- We will see this clearly as they will now go before the Sanhedrin.

## 4. More Questioning 5:27-32

## 4. More Questioning 5:27-32

- Peter is again the spokesman.
- If anything, he seems to get increasingly clear and bold in his presentations of the truth of Christ.

## 4. More Questioning 5:27-32

- 5:29 We must obey God rather than men.
- This brings up a common, but important struggle for Christians.
- Throughout history we have this tension between human authorities and the only true God.
- Think back to Daniel and his friends, Jeremiah or the many imprisonments of Paul.

## 4. More Questioning 5:27-32

- Let's hear from a couple of highly reputable Bible commentators on this issue.

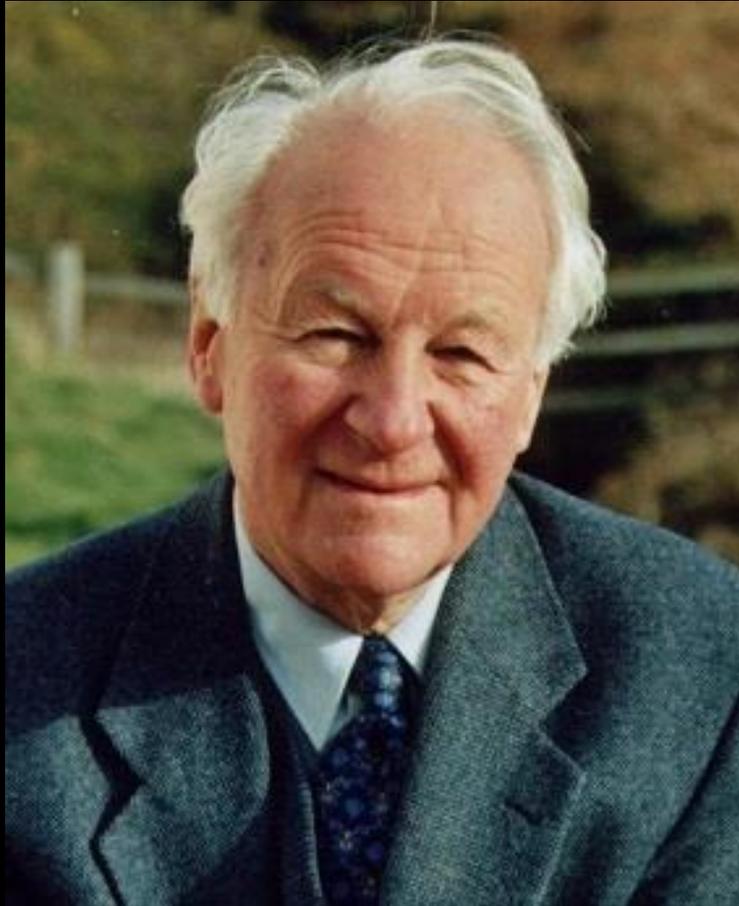
## 4. More Questioning 5:27-32



*A command of God, such as that given in 5:20, takes precedence over human commands. It is the price of being a Christian that one must be prepared to obey God rather than men—and bear the cost of doing so. <sup>2</sup>*

*– I. Howard Marshall (1934 – 2015),  
University of Aberdeen, Scotland*

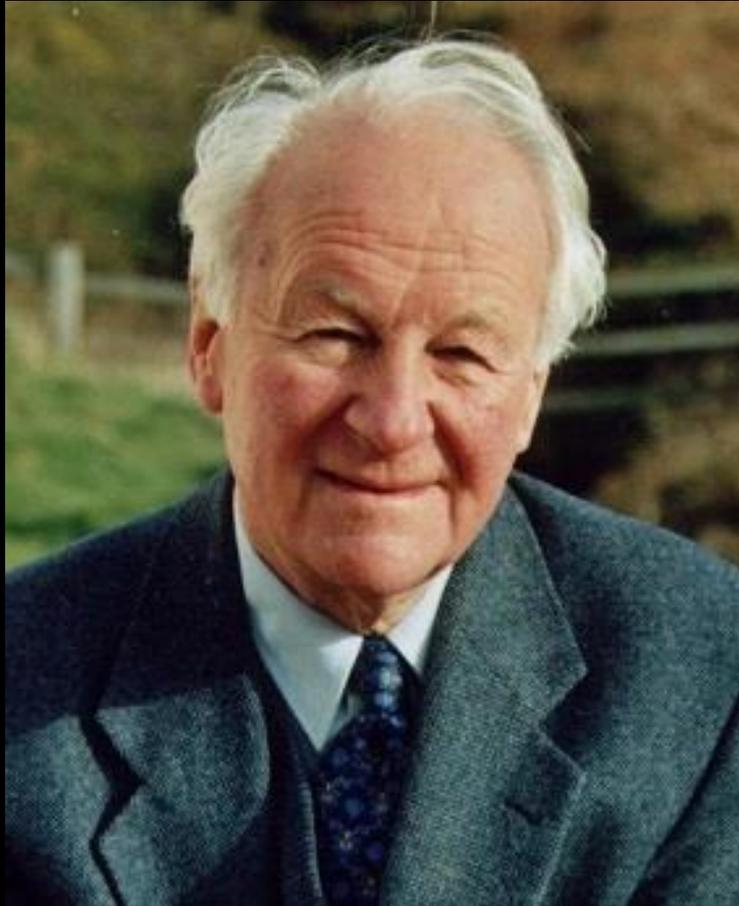
## 4. More Questioning 5:27-32



*To be sure, Christians are called to be conscientious citizens and generally speaking, to submit to human authorities ...*

*– John Stott (1921 – 2011),  
All Souls Church, London*

## 4. More Questioning 5:27-32



*But if the authority concerned misuses its God-given power to command what he forbids or forbid what he commands, then the Christian's duty is to disobey the human authority in order to obey God's. <sup>3</sup>*

*– John Stott (1921 – 2011),  
All Souls Church, London*

## 4. More Questioning 5:27-32

- The trick is to **be watchful of our own heart attitudes.**
- There will always be a tendency to get this wrong.
- **We will want to rebel** against commands of the government that we simply do not like.
- **We will want to go along** when it makes our lives easier, even if we compromise our faith.

## 5. Gamaliel's Counsel 5:33-42

## 5. Gamaliel's Counsel 5:33-42

- 5:33 The word **enraged** is literally “**sawn in two.**”
- 5:34 **Gamaliel** was the personal mentor of the Apostle Paul (**Acts 22:3**) and was highly respected.
- There is no record of him ever becoming a Christian.

## 5. Gamaliel's Counsel 5:33-42

- He appears several times in ancient rabbinic sources.
- This statement is from the *Mishna*, the first major written collection of the Jewish oral traditions.

*When Rabban Gamaliel the Elder died, the glory of the Law ceased and purity and abstinence died. (M. Sota 9:15.)*

## 5. Gamaliel's Counsel 5:33-42

- 5:34 Note also that Gamaliel, like Paul, was a Pharisee.
- The Pharisees are problematic in the Gospels, but in Acts they sometimes side with the church.
- This is because the Sadducees, including the priests, denied the resurrection, angels, etc.
- The Pharisees believed in all these things.

## 5. Gamaliel's Counsel 5:33-42

- 5:38-39 if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them.
- Gamaliel is citing a rabbinic principle toward moderation in such cases.

*Any assembling together that is for the sake of Heaven shall in the end be established, but any that is not for the sake of Heaven shall not in the end be established.  
(M. Abot 4:11)*

## 5. Gamaliel's Counsel 5:33-42

- 5:41 The apostles left the council rejoicing.
- They wanted to be faithful to Christ and in their ministry for him.
- They succeeded.

## 5. Gamaliel's Counsel 5:33-42

- 5:42 The activities of **teaching and preaching** took place in differing venues on two different scales:
  1. **Publicly, in the temple** Presumably more **preaching** than teaching and to a larger audience.
  2. **Privately, from house to house** This would likely include more **teaching** and be mainly for believers.

# Acts 5    What We Just Read

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# Acts 5    Key Points

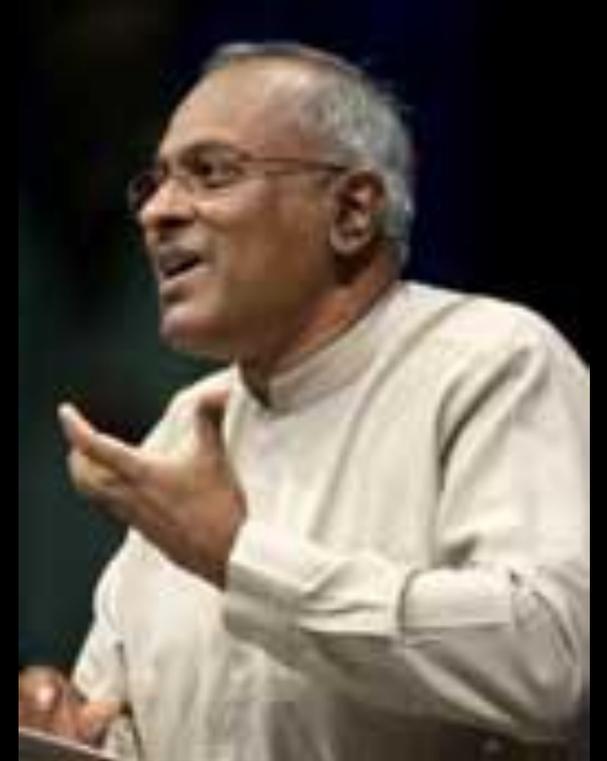
## Acts 5    Key Points

1. The church needs to be holy, but at the same time needs to be authentic – without hypocrisy.
2. A truly biblical and evangelistic ministry may lead us into trouble, but that is simply part of the Christian life.
3. The church is never allowed to lose its missional component as it is our job to take the gospel out into the world.

## Acts 5    Key Points

*It is easy to lose passion for evangelism, especially in the face of opposition ... Christianity is a religion with a message, a message so important that it simply must be shared to all who live on earth ... If it is that urgent, then every human being should be told this good news. <sup>4</sup>*

*– Ajith Fernando,  
Youth for Christ, Sri Lanka*



# Acts 5    A Prayer

# Acts 5    A Prayer

- Dear Heavenly Father,
- We know that we are an unholy and imperfect group of people, full of faults and in need of your grace and forgiveness.
- Please wash us clean from our sin by the blood of Jesus Christ and help us to live more faithfully and more fully for you.

# Acts 5    A Prayer

- Help us also to be faithful to your commandment to make disciples of all nations.
- If this leads us into trouble help us to be courageous and steadfast in our commitment to reaching our city, our nation, and the world – all nations – for Christ.
- In his name we pray,
- Amen

## Acts 5    References

1. Fernando, A. (1998). *Acts* (p. 216). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.
2. Marshall, I. H. (1980). *Acts: an introduction and commentary* (Vol. 5, p. 126). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
3. Stott, J. R. W. (1994). *The message of Acts: the Spirit, the church & the world* (p. 116). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
4. Fernando (p.216)