

APOSTLES ON TRIAL

OPENING PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,

We are grateful to you for a roof over our heads, food on the table and our loving family especially during this difficult time. Many of us are feeling on edge and concerned over the Coronavirus pandemic. In present times of helplessness, it feels like everything is spiralling out of control please help us to keep our thoughts focused on you, give us hope, peace and strength and help us move forward as a nation and as your people. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

BIBLE READING:- ACTS 5:12-42 (NIV)

[www.youtube.com > watch > v=WKjWIETMYxc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKjWIETMYxc)

The Apostles and the High Council - YouTube



Feb 21, 2018 - Uploaded by Saddleback Kids

This story shows the story of the Apostles from Acts 5:17-42.

The Apostles Heal Many

¹²The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. ¹³No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. ¹⁴Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. ¹⁵As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. ¹⁶Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.

The Apostles Persecuted

¹⁷ Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸ They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. ¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. ²⁰ "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people all about this new life." ²¹ At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people. When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles.

²² But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, ²³ "We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside." ²⁴ On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were at a loss, wondering what this might lead to.

²⁵ Then someone came and said, "Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people." ²⁶ At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

²⁷ The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. ²⁸ "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood."

²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings! ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. ³¹ God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins.

³² We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

³³ When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.

³⁴ But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. ³⁵ Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men.

³⁶ Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. ³⁷ After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered.

³⁸ Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. ³⁹ But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."

⁴⁰ His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. ⁴² Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.



BRIEF DISCUSSION

Life Application

Suffering with an attitude of Thanksgiving. That sounds a little crazy to us. These apostles were beaten, scolded, people were plotting their deaths, and yet they rejoiced because they were suffering in honour of Jesus. They were thankful to be used by God.

We do not suffer persecution in Australia, but the people in our world are going through suffering at the moment. We have a virus that is causing death in many countries, job losses and basically turning our lives upside down. But when bad times come, (or we suffer for the name of Jesus in the case of the Apostles), it is hard to be joyful and let our lights shine like the apostles did.

The apostles suffered in jail and they were beaten, but they responded with rejoicing and thanksgiving. Jesus was with those apostles through all of that suffering.

What can we learn from the Apostles on trial?

We can be thankful and joyful when we suffer in life because God uses hard times to teach us more about Who He is. He teaches us to rely upon Him and not ourselves. He teaches us how to pray during hard times as well. Through suffering, God teaches us that we must depend upon Him to lift us up.

Questions

What is the name of the Apostle mentioned in this bible passage?

Why did the high priest and all his mates have the apostles arrested and thrown into the jail? Do you think the apostles deserve to be punished? Why or why not?

When instructed not to teach in Jesus' name for fear of death why did the Apostles reoffend? (after they were released by the angel they went back out to preach).

We are currently in a challenging situation, being in isolation (no actual schooling, no hanging out with friends, no extracurricular activities and no Kids' church). What do you think God is trying to teach you at present? How do you think you can help others?

Please say a prayer to thank God for His provisions, His presence, giving you strength and hope.