



Acts Book Study Chapters 5-6
Sunday June 16, 2024

ACTS CHAPTER FIVE

We are still within the first 4 years of the Early Church. And we see problems emerging.

Early Problems – Money (Acts 5:1-11)

People voluntarily sold what they had and brought the proceeds and gave it to the apostles to care for the needs of this growing community, which by this time could have been well over 12,000 people. Ananias and Sapphira wanted to do a good thing, which is contribute towards this pool of funds, and yet they were being dishonest in what they did. They sold the land, kept some of the money, but pretended to be giving the full amount to the church. Perhaps their love for money, along with a false pretense got the better of their earlier intention.

Through the revelatory gifts of the Spirit, word of knowledge and discerning of spirits, Peter called out this deceitful deed.

The Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3,4)

Ananias' "lie to the Holy Spirit" was not just a lie to men, as Peter stated: "You have not lied to men but to God." The Holy Spirit is a Person. The Holy Spirit is God. Fully God. Not one-third God. The Holy Spirit fully represents the Father and the Eternal Word.

Great Grace, Great Power, Great Fear (Acts 5:5,11)

Ananias and Sapphira dropped dead that day! Why was there such a severe "punishment" for what seemed like a "small sin" of lying? What about other people at that time who would have also had their share of sins? Why don't we see similar serious consequences in the Church today, for so many obvious and "bigger sins"?

What we can perhaps consider is that during those years, there was a great move of the Spirit of God and there was great grace, great power and glory being made available to the people as we saw in Acts 4:33. In such an environment, God expects great reverence. Additionally, since this was done in a manner directly lying to God and testing God, the consequence was severe. One reason, why we do not see such severe outcomes today, is perhaps we are not walking in that same measure and degree of God's manifested grace, power and glory as in the days of the Book of Acts. However, God's intent is that the glory of the latter (end) house will be greater than the glory of former (beginning). We are very likely to see and experience such grace, power and



glory released on the Church before Jesus returns, because He is coming for a glorious Church. It is likely we will see the light of God exposing sin in similar manner.

The love of money is the root of all evil.

The grace of God and the power of God must be held with great reverence for God.

More grace, more power, more reverence!

Where there is great grace, and great power, there will also be low tolerance for sin.

Imagine the effect of this incident on the Spirit filled community of believers – “great fear”!

Don't Test the Spirit of the Lord (Acts 5:4,9)

Peter's rebuke not only stated that: “You have not lied to men but to God” (vs 4), but also indicated that they had conspired together to “test” God. Peter questioned: “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord?” (vs 9).

Deception against the house of God is testing the Spirit of the Lord, and He always shines His light and exposes darkness.

“For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.” (Matthew 10:26)

“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” (Hebrews 4:13)

Healings, Deliverance, and Unusual Signs and Wonders (Acts 5:12-16)

We now see great demonstrations of power and glory:

- Many signs and wonders (Acts 5:12)
- All with one accord (Acts 5:12)
- Respect for leadership (Acts 5:13)
- Believers increasingly added, multitudes (Acts 5:14)
- Peter's shadow healing people (Acts 5:15)
- People came from other cities for healing and deliverance (Acts 5:16)

May we see such a move of the Spirit of God in our day and time, where people will come from across our city and neighboring cities to be healed and delivered.



Angel Opens Prison Doors (Acts 5:17-21)

Once again the religious leaders were stirred up. This time they put all the 12 apostles in the common prison. An angel of God supernaturally released the apostles and directed them to go preach in the Temple the words of “this life” – life in Christ. The guards and the priests were shocked and shaken by all that was happening. The apostles were then brought before the Sanhedrin.

Peter’s Response To The Sanhedrin (Acts 5:22-32)

Peter’s response to the religious leaders had three key points:

- We ought to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29)
- The One whom you killed is alive, exalted as Prince and Savior (Acts 5:30-31)
- We are His witnesses, with the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:32)

We Are His Witnesses, with the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:32)

We are not alone in bearing witness to the risen Christ. The Holy Spirit is with us empowering us as His witnesses.

“Let’s Kill the Apostles!”, But Gamaliel Spoke Up (Acts 5:33-40)

The Sanhedrin had fully intended to kill the 12 apostles. Gamaliel, a revered teacher of the Law spoke up. Gamaliel referred to two other men in their recent history, Theudas and Judas of Galilee, who also drew followers after them, but these movements died as soon as the leaders died.

“If It is of God, You Cannot Stop It” (Acts 5:38-39)

Gamaliel’s advice was simple yet profound: *“And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God.”* (Acts 5:38-39).

This is a useful plumbline for us, as well as a powerful encouragement for us. If what we are doing is of our own selves, it will come to nothing. However, when we are doing what God wants us to do, no one can overthrow it!

Rejoiced To Suffer Shame for His Name (Acts 5:41)

Would we count it an honor to suffer shame for His name?

They Continued Proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah (Acts 5:42)

Nothing stopped them from continuing on with pursuing the Great Commission.



ACTS CHAPTER SIX

Another Problem – Unfairness (Acts 6:1)

Another problem arose, this one an internal matter, where the Greek-speaking (Hellenists) widows seemed to be neglected in the daily distribution of food, while the Hebrew speaking widows (Hebrews) seemed to be treated preferentially.

An important lesson to learn: Do nothing out of partiality. As Paul wrote to Timothy much later: *“I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.”* (1 Timothy 5:21)

Deacons, Administrators, Ministry of Helps (Acts 6:2-6)

The apostles chose to appoint seven men to handle the daily distribution of food. While we do not see specific titles such as “deacons”, or “administrators” or “helps”, the role these people would fill, would eventually give rise to such titles as we see later in the life of the Church (1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:6-8; Romans 16:1-2; 1 Timothy 3:8-13).

Good Reputation, Full of the Holy Spirit, Full of Wisdom (Acts 6:3)

The apostles had the people choose seven men. Consider the criteria: men of good report (good testimony), full of the Holy Spirit and full of wisdom. This means that being full of godly character, full of the Spirit and full of wisdom are virtues (or attributes) that can be seen by people around us.

Paul later outlined the “qualifications” of deacons in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. Those who serve in church, even in administrative and other roles are to have the same godly standards.

The Ministry of the Word and Prayer (Acts 6:4)

We can imagine, though the Scriptures do not state this, that food was being handled by the seven men, the money would also have been handled by designated people.

With some of the routine administrative work delegated to good people the apostles decided to focus on the ministry of the Word and prayer.

They Laid Hands on them (Acts 6:6)

The appointing of these seven men into their somewhat mundane task was done publicly, and with the laying on of hands, signifying both authorization and impartation.



The Word Increased, Disciples Multiplied, Priests Were Saved (Acts 6:7)

With this problem suitable addressed, and the Word being proclaimed, we see great growth. There was multiplication. Even priests were coming to faith in Jesus! There was explosive growth – multiplying, greatly multiplying (Acts 6:1,7)

If we were to examine and summarize what could be some of the keys to such church growth:

#1, Move of the Spirit

#2, Spiritual ministry – preaching, teaching, prayer

#3, Spirit filled community – worship, prayer, fellowship, generosity, witness, gladness, simplicity, one heart and mind (unity).

#4, Supernatural – miracles, signs, wonders

#5, Boldness

#6, Favor – people saw the life of the community and how these people were living

#7, Leaders being nurtured and organization – Barnabas, 7 deacons,

Deacon Stephen (Acts 6:5,8-10)

Stephen was given the task, as part of the seven men, to serve food. But we see the work of the Spirit come through his life powerfully. This teaches us that even those serving as “deacons”, administrations or helps or some other support ministry can be powerfully used by the Spirit of God. In fact, all of us can!

Many Jews from Cyrene and Alexandria in North Africa, together with Jews of Cilicia, Paul’s home district in Asia, started debating with Stephen about Jesus Christ. *“And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.”* (Act 6:10). So they ended up falsely accusing Stephen, just as the Lord Jesus was falsely accused.

Stephen Taken Into Trial (Acts 6:9-15)

Stephen was the first believer, other than the 12 apostles, to be brought before the Sanhedrin for preaching Jesus Christ.

Supernatural Glow (Acts 6:15)

God’s supernatural glory was seen shining through Stephen, similar to what happened to Moses.

SUMMARY

Let’s desire to live the book of Acts. What happened then must happen now and in greater measure. The glory of the latter is to be greater than the former.

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL



SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



Acts – Book Study – Chapters 5-6
Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide



Acts Book Study Chapters 5-6
Sunday June 16, 2024

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *Please request Life group members to read Acts 5-6, before the Life Group Meeting. This can help save time.*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, The love of money still seems to be a problem in the Church today? What are some of the expressions of this problem in the Church, that you have observed? How can we protect our local church communities from the problems caused by the love of money?

2, God using Peter's shadow to heal and deliver is an unusual way of God working miracles? What other unusual ways of supernatural demonstrations do we see in



Scripture? When we see unusual ways of miraculous expression today, how do we test to see if this is truly of God?

3, How do we ensure that all that is done in the local church community is impartial, fair to all, with no one being given special preferential “treatment”, in church life?

4, What are points of inspiration that we can derive from Stephen, as seen in Acts 6?

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.

Close by thanking God together.



Acts – Book Study – Chapters 5-6 Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide



USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

The book of Acts records the first 40 years of the Early Church. This is a book study of the Acts of the apostles, or more correctly, the acts of the Holy Spirit through the early believers. As we study the book of Acts there are two compelling perspectives that we develop: (A) the Church's DNA – what a Spirit filled church would look like and (B) how the Church would go about fulfilling the Great Commission empowered by the Holy Spirit. We glean spiritual and practical insights from each chapter and share ways we can apply these in our lives. In this sermon we cover Acts chapters 5-6. We observe how God dealt with lies and deception that stemmed from the love of money in the early church. We see the powerful demonstrations of God's supernatural work. We also see the appointing of seven helpers (a role that would be eventually referred to as deacons) and the outstanding life of Stephen.

KEYWORDS

Acts of the apostles, book study of Acts, Gospel preaching, Spirit filled church community, healing of the lame man at the gate of the temple, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources



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Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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