

## Acts 5:12-42 Worksheet

### Day 1

This passage is going to pick up on the narrative that we looked at 2&3 weeks ago. There was a small interruption in the narrative wherein Luke recorded the Ananias and Saphira tragedy. But now Luke goes back to describing the early church in their pursuit of *paressia* (boldness). Take today to remind yourself of the context as it has been a week since you were in this narrative.

Read: Acts 3-4, 5:12-42

Pay special attention to how Luke re-establishes the following aspects of setting and themes by noting when they were addressed in 3-4, and re-addressed in 5:12-42.

Example: Solomon's Portico – 3:11, 5:12

Signs and Wonders –

Sadducees –

Religious Leader's Jealousy –

Apostle's Arrest –

Apostle's Witness –

Obedience to God as opposed to man –

Warning to stop witnessing –

### Day 2 (5:12-42) READ/PRAY to begin study

Now that we have grasped this passage within its broader context, let's narrow our focus today to just 5:12-42

Read and Summarize 5:12-42 in a few concise sentences (focus on the scenes that unfold in this narrative)

Viewing this as a story, there are essentially 3 groups of characters, the church (with apostles as their representative), the religious leaders (with Gamaliel as their representative), and the onlookers. Briefly note each of their roles in this passage.

- The Church (12, 27-32, 41-42):
- The religious leaders (21,27-42)
- The onlookers (13-16)

REFLECT: Can you wrap your mind around finding joy in being counted worthy of suffering for the name of Christ? Does this bring to your mind any story or testimony a believer suffering dishonor for Christ?

### Day 3 (5:12-42) READ/PRAY to begin study.

Today, I want to focus on the three groups we noted above. Answer the questions below, then reflect on your experience and the people you are usually around.

What was the onlooker's reaction to the gospel? Why were they reacting like this?

Is the gospel they were presenting more attractive than the gospel we present now? If so, how so? If not, why do we not see a similar reaction to the gospel in our day and age (feel free to continue your answer on the back of this paper)?

*Day 3 continued on other side...*

Can you gather from the text, why the religious leaders were so furious with the apostles? (review Psalm 2 and Ephesians 6:12 for a theological explanation to this phenomenon)

REFLECT: Looking at this passage, I get extremely encouraged that despite the world generally being set against Christ, the gospel is still very attractive to lost souls. Do you have any other observations from this passage regarding the reaction of not-yet-believers to the proclamation of the gospel?

#### **Day 4 (5:27-32) READ/PRAY to begin study.**

This is a fun interchange to observe. It is also part 2 of the showdown of Apostles vs. Sadducees.

Read 4:18-21 to remind yourself of part 1 of Apostles vs. Sadducees

Thinking back to chapter 4, how did the early church react to part 1 of the showdown? (see 4:24,29,31)

Note now, how the Lord answered 100% of their prayer. He continued to perform wonders and miracles, and he granted them the ability to continue in boldness. Along with this answer to prayer we note the consistency of the apostles in their desire to witness despite opposition. The Apostles' consistency is clearly displayed in a repeated message they sent to the Sadducees. What was it? (See 4:19-20 and 5:29-30)

REFLECT: What are common ways in which believers are tempted to bend to the desire of man over obedience to the Word?

#### **Day 5 (5:41)**

I want to focus on the attitude of the apostles and what it meant for them to rejoice in their suffering.

- Read vs 41. Specifically, what were the apostles rejoicing over?

I was thinking that this might be an appropriate spot for a word-study, but this sentence translates very directly to English, so it means exactly what it says. I will point out though that there are only three things in Scripture for which the word translated "counted worthy of" is used. Those three things are suffering dishonor for Christ, acceptance into the Kingdom, and attaining resurrection from the dead. Though Scripture doesn't say so explicitly here, it is pointed out by Christ several times that those who are counted worthy of the Kingdom, suffer dishonor in this world.

REFLECT: What are some ways in which faithful followers of Christ can expect to suffer dishonor in our culture?

#### **Day 6** Re-read the 5:12-42 for review.

What are some insights you have gained from this week? Is there any way in which the Lord spoke to you through this text that you would like to share with your small group?