**THE BOOK OF ACTS – CHAPTER 5**

***Ananias & Sapphira***

* Internally\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Externally\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***3****Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?*

* Although they had the Holy Spirit, the believers were not immune to sin and temptation.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* There was nothing wrong with Ananias and Sapphira holding back part of the money, the sin they committed was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Why such a harsh judgment?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***11****Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.*

* We must remember that God hates sin. The judgment on Ananias and Sapphira seem harsh, however with this, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* If their sin was ignored, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* This incident \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***The Apostles Heal Many***

***14****Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.*

What attracts people to church?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***15****As 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.****16****Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.*

What did these miraculous healings do for the early church?

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***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.*

* Although the apostles experienced power to do miracles, great boldness to preach, and God’s presence in their lives, they were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* The word *jealous* comes from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*.* The Sadducees were upset because they saw their power being overshadowed by the Christ followers.
* Along with being arrested, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Faith in God does not make trouble go away, but it does make trouble look less \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

***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.”

* This command from the angel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The fundamental idea is that obedience leads to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. However, obeying God often results in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* They also recognized that being persecuted for Christ is a deeper kind of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

What biblical commands if obeyed might result in discomfort for you today?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***21****At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.*

* At daybreak, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. People stopped at the temple to pray and worship at sunrise.
* The apostles were already there and ready to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The Sanhedrin would have also gathered there as well. This meant that this was going to be a full out trial. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***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.*

* The officials were more concerned about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the apostles might have on the people than they were about their escape.

***29****Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings!*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***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.*

* The Pharisees were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-not just God’s law, but hundreds of other rules that they added to God’s law. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ They were careful about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but many had\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Gamaliel became an unlikely ally for the apostles. He was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***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.*

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SOURCES:**

1. Life Application Study Bible – NIV
2. Life In The Spirit Study Bible- NIV
3. The Jeremiah Study Bible -NKJV

**THE BOOK OF ACTS – CHAPTER 5**

***Ananias & Sapphira***

* Internally, the faced problems like dishonesty among the congregation.
* Externally, the faced problems of persecution.

***3****Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?*

* Although they had the Holy Spirit, the believers were not immune to sin and temptation. The enemy will always try to lure the believer into sin. We must remember that giving in to temptation is a choice.
* There was nothing wrong with Ananias and Sapphira holding back part of the money, the sin they committed with lying to God and God’s people-saying they gave the entire amount, to make themselves appear more generous than they were.

Why such a harsh judgment?

Because dishonesty, greed, and covetousness are destructive in a church. It prevents the Holy Spirit from working effectively.

***11****Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.*

* We must remember that God hates sin. The judgment on Ananias and Sapphira seem harsh, however with this, we come to the realization of how serious God is about sin in the church. God is full of mercy and grace, but we also need to remember that he is holy.
* If their sin was ignored, it would have corrupted all that God wanted to do in the early church.
* This incident sparked church growth and a holy fear for a holy God among his people.

***The Apostles Heal Many***

***14****Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.*

What attracts people to church?

* People were attracted to the early church because they saw God’s power at work in the lives of the people-through the generosity, sincerity, unity, and character of the leaders and members.

***15****As 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.****16****Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.*

What did these miraculous healings do for the early church?

1. They attracted new believers
2. They confirmed he truth of the apostles’ teaching
3. They demonstrated that the power of the Messiah who had been crucified and risen was now with his followers

***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.*

* Although the apostles experienced power to do miracles, great boldness to preach, and God’s presence in their lives, they were not free from hatred and persecution
* The word *jealous* also translated to *zelos* or *indignation.* The Sadducees were upset because they saw their power being overshadowed by the Christ followers.
* Along with being arrested, they were slandered by community leaders.
* Faith in God does not make trouble go away, but it does make trouble look less frightening because it puts them in the right perspective.

***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.”

* This command from the angel would lead to a brutal flogging (5:40). The fundamental idea is that obedience leads to blessing. However, obeying God often results in pain and suffering.
* They also recognized that being persecuted for Christ is a deeper kind of blessing.

What biblical commands if obeyed might result in discomfort for you today?

***21****At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.*

* At daybreak, the temple would have been a busy place. People stopped at the temple to pray and worship at sunrise.
* The apostles were already there and ready to preach the good news.
* The Sanhedrin would have also gathered there as well. This meant that this was going to be a full out trial. The religious leaders were ready to do what was necessary to stop the apostles from challenging their authority and exposing their hypocrisy.

***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.*

* The officials were more concerned about the impact the apostles might have on the people that they were about their escape.

***29****Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings!*

***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.*

* The Pharisees were strict keepers of the law-not just God’s law, but hundreds of other rules that they added to God’s law. They were careful about outward purity, but many had impure hearts and motives.
* Gamaliel became an unlikely ally for the apostles. He was a distinguished member of the council and a teacher. We later learn that Paul (Saul) was one of his students He probably did not support the teachings of the apostles and his inventions were most likely to prevent a division in the council and to avoid arousing the Romans.

***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.*

* This was the first time any of the apostles had been physically abused for their faith. However, they knew Jesus had suffered and so they praised God that he allowed them to be persecuted like Jesus.

***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.*

* During later times of persecution, meeting in homes became the primary method of passing on Bible knowledge.

**SOURCES:**

1. Life Application Study Bible – NIV
2. Life In The Spirit Study Bible- NIV
3. The Jeremiah Study Bible -NKJV

**THE BOOK OF ACTS – CHAPTER 5**

***Ananias & Sapphira***

* In this chapter, we see are made aware of the internal and external challenges the early church had to endure.
* Internally, the faced problems like dishonesty among the congregation.
* Externally, the faced problems of persecution.

***3****Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?*

* Although they had the Holy Spirit, the believers were not immune to sin and temptation. The enemy will always try to lure the believer into sin. We must remember that giving in to temptation is a choice.
* While Satan cannot fill or control a believer, he can damage the hearts that are open to temptation.
* When he didn’t succeed in destroying the church, he tried to infiltrate and hinder by prompting people to live in insincere and hypocritical ways. A tactic he still uses today.
* There was nothing wrong with Ananias and Sapphira holding back part of the money, the sin they committed with lying to God and God’s people-saying they gave the entire amount, to make themselves appear more generous than they were.

Why such a harsh judgment?

Because dishonesty, greed, and covetousness are destructive in a church. It prevents the Holy Spirit from working effectively.

All lying is bad, however, when we lie to try to deceive God and his people about our relationship with him, we destroy our testimony about Christ.

***11****Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.*

* We must remember that God hates sin. The judgment on Ananias and Sapphira seem harsh, however with this, we come to the realization of how serious God is about sin in the church. God is full of mercy and grace, but we also need to remember that he is holy.
* If their sin was ignored, it would have corrupted all that God wanted to do in the early church.
* This incident sparked church growth and a holy fear for a holy God among his people.

***The Apostles Heal Many***

***14****Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.*

What attracts people to church?

* People were attracted to the early church because they saw God’s power at work in the lives of the people-through the generosity, sincerity, unity, and character of the leaders and members.

***15****As 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.****16****Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.*

What did these miraculous healings do for the early church?

1. They attracted new believers
2. They confirmed he truth of the apostles’ teaching
3. They demonstrated that the power of the Messiah who had been crucified and risen was now with his followers

***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.*

* Although the apostles experienced power to do miracles, great boldness to preach, and God’s presence in their lives, they were not free from hatred and persecution
* The word *jealous* also translated to *zelos* or *indignation.* The Sadducees were upset because they saw their power being overshadowed by the Christ followers.
* Along with being arrested, they were slandered by community leaders.
* Faith in God does not make trouble go away, but it does make trouble look less frightening because it puts them in the right perspective.
* Don’t expect everyone to react favourably when you share something as dynamic as your faith in Christ. Some people may feel jealous, afraid, or even threatened. Expect some negative reactions and remember that you must be more concerned about serving God than people’s reaction.

***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.”

* This command from the angel would lead to a brutal flogging (5:40). The fundamental idea is that obedience leads to blessing. However, obeying God often results in pain and suffering.
* They also recognized that being persecuted for Christ is a deeper kind of blessing.

What biblical commands if obeyed might result in discomfort for you today?

***21****At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.*

* At daybreak, the temple would have been a busy place. People stopped at the temple to pray and worship at sunrise.
* The apostles were already there and ready to preach the good news.
* The Sanhedrin would have also gathered there as well. This meant that this was going to be a full out trial. The religious leaders were ready to do what was necessary to stop the apostles from challenging their authority and exposing their hypocrisy.

***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.*

* The officials were more concerned about the impact the apostles might have on the people that they were about their escape.

***29****Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings!*

* The apostles knew what was important. While we should try to live in peace with everyone (Romans 12:18), conflict with the world and authorities is sometimes inevitable for Christ followers (John 15:18). There will be situations where you can’t obey God and man. Then you must obey God and trust his Word.

***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.*

* The Pharisees were strict keepers of the law-not just God’s law, but hundreds of other rules that they added to God’s law. They were careful about outward purity, but many had impure hearts and motives.
* Gamaliel was the chief exponent and disciple of the Hillel (a Jewish religious leader and scholar) school of the Sanhedrin.
* Gamaliel became an unlikely ally for the apostles. He was a distinguished member of the council and a teacher. We later learn that Paul (Saul) was one of his students He probably did not support the teachings of the apostles and his inventions were most likely to prevent a division in the council and to avoid arousing the Romans.
* He possessed enough wisdom to discern whether or not Christianity was just another cult or from 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.*

* This was the first time any of the apostles had been physically abused for their faith. However, they knew Jesus had suffered and so they praised God that he allowed them to be persecuted like Jesus.
* This reminds us that if we are mocked or persecuted for our faith, it’s not because we are doing something wrong, but because God has counted us “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.*

* During later times of persecution, meeting in homes became the primary method of passing on Bible knowledge. Believers throughout the world still use this approach when under persecution and as a way to build up the church.

**SOURCES:**

1. Life Application Study Bible – NIV
2. Life In The Spirit Study Bible- NIV
3. The Jeremiah Study Bible -NKJV