

UNSTOPPABLE POWER

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

“THE CHURCH IN THE KETTLE”

ACTS 5:12-42

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS

NOVEMBER 7, 2021

Introduction: Are Christians being persecuted for their faith today? In some parts of the world, yes. But in other countries like the United States, persecution begins subtly and grows incrementally -- just as it did in the First Century, as we will see in today's passage.

I. Blessings From Within The Church (Acts 5:12-16)

Acts 5:12 “At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s portico.”

Acts 5:14-15 ¹⁴ “And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number, ¹⁵ to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them.”

II. Persecution From Without The Church (Acts 5:17-42)

A. The Apostles Arrested (Acts 5:17-18)

Acts 5:17 “The high priest rose up, along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy.”

B. The Apostles Miraculously Released (Acts 5:19-21a)

Acts 5:19-21a ¹⁹ “During the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said, ²⁰ ‘Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple, the whole message of this Life.’ ^{21a} Upon hearing this, they entered into the temple about daybreak and began to teach.”

UNSTOPPABLE POWER

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

“THE CHURCH IN THE KETTLE”

ACTS 5:12-42

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS | NOVEMBER 7, 2021

C. The Religious Leaders Enraged (Acts 5:21b-26)

Acts 5:21b-23 ^{21b} “Now when the high priest and his associates came, they called the Council together, even all the Senate of the sons of Israel, and sent orders to the prison house for them to be brought. ²² But the officers who came did not find them in the prison; and they returned and reported back, ²³ saying, ‘We found the prison house locked quite securely and the guards standing at the doors; but when we had opened up, we found no one inside.’”

D. The Apostles Questioned (Acts 5:27-32)

Acts 5:29 “Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than men.’”

Acts 5:30-32 ³⁰ “The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. ³¹ He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

E. The Religious Leaders Perplexed (Acts 5:33-39)

Acts 5:33 “When they heard this, they were cut to the quick and intended to kill them.”

Acts 5:38-39 ³⁸ “So in the present case, I say to you, stay away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or action is of men, it will be overthrown; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God.”

F. The Apostles Flogged, But Unstoppable (Acts 5:40-42)

Acts 5:40 “They took his [Gamaliel] advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them.”

UNSTOPPABLE POWER

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

“THE CHURCH IN THE KETTLE”

ACTS 5:12-42

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS | NOVEMBER 7, 2021

Acts 5:41-42 ⁴¹ “So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name. ⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”

III. Principles About Persecution In Every Age

A. Persecution Is Inevitable, Expect It (John 16:33; 1 Peter 4:12-14)

James 4:4 “You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

John 16:33 “... In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

1 Peter 4:12-14 ¹² “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; ¹³ but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.”

B. Persecution Is Incremental, Understand It (1 Chronicles 12:32)

1 Chronicles 12:32 “Of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do...”

C. Persecution Is Painful, Endure It (1 Peter 2:20-21; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

1 Peter 2:20b-21 ^{20b} “...But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. ²¹ For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps.”

UNSTOPPABLE POWER

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

“THE CHURCH IN THE KETTLE”

ACTS 5:12-42

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS | NOVEMBER 7, 2021

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 ¹⁷ “For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

D. **Persecution Is Profitable, Praise God For It**

(James 1:2-4; Acts 5:41-42)

James 1:2-4 ² “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

Acts 5:41-42 ⁴¹ “So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name. ⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”

Conclusion