

“Jerusalem Meets Rome and Finds Babylon: A Study in Church Purity”

Fall 2022-Spring 2023

Encountering Resistance Without and Within – Acts 3-5

I. What Starts the Resistance – Acts 3

A. The Miracle – vs 1-11

1. Purpose of Miracles

- a. Heb 2:3-4 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and **was confirmed** to us by those who heard Him, **God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders**, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?
- b. Still had responsibility to test the message – De 13:1-5; 1 Th 5:21-22; 1 Jo 4:1

2. Peter and John healing the lame man

- a. Circumstances for meeting – vs 1-5
- b. Peter has no money, so he gives what he has -vs 6-7
- c. Everyone’s attention is drawn to the healed man – vs 9-10
- d. Everyone’s attention is drawn to Peter and John – vs 11

B. The Message – vs 12-26

1. Putting the Attention where it needs to be – vs 12-13

a. Questions to Consider

- i. "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this?"
- ii. Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?

b. Re-evaluating recent history

- i. God’s proven choice of Savior – vs 13a, 15b
- ii. The People’s Rejection – vs 13b-15a, 17
 - whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate,
 - But you denied the Holy One and the Just
 - and killed the Prince of life

c. God’s Doings

- i. Healed the man – vs 16
- ii. Foreordained and foretold of Christ’s death burial, and resurrection – vs 18, 22-26
 - Moses - God will raise up a Prophet like me, listen to Him – vs 22-23
 - all the prophets - as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. – vs 24
- iii. God’s Covenantal Promises – vs 19-21, 25-26
 - Times of Refreshing and Restoration – vs 19, 21
 - Christ’s Return – vs 20
 - to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'
 - "To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."

2. Man’s Response – vs 19 - Repent

- a. *metanoeo* - to think differently or afterwards, reconsider (morally, feel compunction):
repent. – consider vs 13-15
- b. submission to God – faith in what He has said instead of the traditions of man

II. Resistance Without – Act 4

A. Hatred of the Truth – vs 1-4

- 1. The Religious Leader's Response – vs 2-3
- 2. The People's Response – vs 4

B. Peter's Explanation – vs 5-14

- 1. The setting of the trial of Peter and John – vs 5-7
- 2. Peter's Testimony – vs 8-12
 - a. Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them
 - b. The healing – vs 9-
 - i. that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth
 - ii. by Him this man stands here before you whole.
 - c. The message – vs 10-12
 - i. whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead,
 - ii. This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.'
 - iii. Nor is there salvation in any other,
- 3. The Leader's dilemma – vs 13-14
 - a. What they saw
 - i. the boldness of Peter and John
 - ii. perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men
 - iii. they realized that they had been with Jesus
 - iv. the man who had been healed standing with them
 - b. they could say nothing against it.

C. The Leader's Response – vs 15-22

- 1. What to do? – vs 15-18
 - a. they commanded them to go out of the council to conferred among themselves
 - b. we cannot deny a notable miracle has been done through them
 - c. But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name."
 - d. they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.
- 2. Peter and John's answer - vs 19-20
 - a. "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.
 - b. "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."
- 3. More Threats – vs 21

D. Report To and Prayer of the Church – vs 23-31

- 1. Report – vs 23
- 2. Prayer – vs 24-30
 - a. God the Creator -vs 24
 - b. Recognition of those against God – vs 25-26
 - c. How it demonstrated itself – vs 27

- d. God's hand is all – vs 28
 - e. Supplication for boldness and God's demonstrated power
 - 3. The Result – vs 31
- E. Generosity Plants the Seeds of Resistance With-in– vs 32-37
 - 1. Unity of the Community – vs 32-35
 - 2. An Example of that Generosity – vs 36-37
- III. Resistance Within – Acts 5:1-16
 - A. The Deception and its Consequences – vs 1-11
 - 1. Introduction to Ananias and Sapphira and their land sale – vs 1-2
 - a. Sold some land
 - b. Both agreed to donate some of the proceeds, but claimed that what was donated was all the proceeds like Barnabas
 - 2. Peter's Confrontation of Ananias – vs 3-6
 - a. What they did was lie to the Holy Spirit
 - b. You could do as you pleased with the proceeds, but you lied to God
 - c. Ananias dies and is buried
 - 3. Peter's Confrontation of Sapphira – vs 7-10
 - a. Sapphira was out shopping
 - b. Verifying said facts
 - c. Rebuke for testing God and sentencing
 - d. Sapphira dies and is buried
 - 4. The results – vs 11
 - B. Growth of the Church – vs 11-16
 - 1. What causes real church growth – vs 11-14
 - a. Fear keeps unbelievers away
 - b. Those that truly believe, come
 - 2. The bringing of the sick for healing – vs 15-16
- IV. More Resistance Without – Acts 5:17-42
 - A. Arresting the Disobedient Ones – vs 16-25
 - 1. The Reason - vs 16
 - 2. The Arrest – vs 17-18
 - 3. The Release – vs 18-21
 - 4. God undoing the religious leaders – 22-25
 - B. Standing Against Resistance – vs 26-42
 - 1. Bringing them back – vs 26-27
 - 2. Whose authority is Higher – vs 28-32
 - a. Whose command – vs 28-29
 - b. Why we obey God – vs 30-32; Dan 3:10-18
 - 3. Don't fight against God – vs 33-40; Dan 3:24-27
 - 4. Rejoicing in Suffering and Continuing to Preach – vs 41-42