

We, the body of Christ called Columbia, continue our exploration of the history of the New Testament church through the book of Acts. Last week, we learned that when God prepares his church he unifies and purifies his people. This week, we get a glimpse of what the apostles were willing to endure as they partnered with Christ to share the gospel to the world around them.

Read **Acts 5:12-16**. In this passage we discover that the apostles had performed many miracles and the believers gathered regularly in Solomon's Colonnade to be a part of this experience. Scriptures read that the apostles were highly regarded and many women and men were added to the body of Christ.

1. **Acts 5:17** gives a description of the High Priest and his associates' response to all that had happened in and through the apostles.

- What was the response of the High Priest and the Sadducees?
- What did they try to do?
- Did the apostles seem fearful or persuaded by the threats the High Priest made?
 - How would you support your answer?

2. How did God intervene with the plans of the High Priest?

3. Read the following passages:

- **Acts 12:5-11**
- **Acts 16:16-35**
- Compare and contrast what you discover in these passages about God's intervention to what you have seen in Acts 5.

4. Read **Acts 5:34**

- Who was Gamaliel?
- How was he described?
- How did God use him?
- Who else was Gamaliel able to influence (**Acts 22:3**)?

- How important is it to know where a movement comes from?
- How might the advice that Gamaliel gave the Sadducees rest in you and work out in your life?

5. Read the following description of flogging:

The Romans first stripped the victim and tied his hands to a post above his head. The whip (flagellum) was made of several pieces of leather with pieces of bone and lead embedded near the ends. Two men, one on each side of the victim, usually did the flogging. The Jews mercifully limited flogging to a maximum of forty stripes; the Romans had no such limitation. (The Expositors Bible Commentary (Volume 8, pages 775-780, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1984.)

- Why would the apostles rejoice after being flogged (**1 Peter 4:14-16, Luke 6:22**)?

6. The phrase "*in the name of Jesus*" was used in the Acts 5 passage several times. Read the following passages to get a better understanding of why the High Priest was fearful of the apostles speaking "*in the name of Jesus*."

- **Acts 3:16**
- **Acts 4:18**
- **Acts 9:27**
- **Acts 10:48**
- **Acts 16:18**
- **Acts 19:13**
- Why do you think the apostles spoke *in the name of Jesus*?
- Why might the High Priest and Sadducees be fearful?

7. What did you discover in this passage that speaks to obeying human authority and obeying divine authority? How might this discovery influence your life?

Pray for everyone who Columbians visited and will visit door-to-door near Crossroads – that the Columbia@Crossroads launch and the church's first services at Easter will be a mighty success and an awesome example of God's power.