



Acts 5

Something to Start Us Off

- If you were miraculously released from prison – as happens to the apostles in this chapter – what is the first thing you would do?

Something to Notice

- What specific actions do Ananias and Sapphira take with their property and offering, and how does Peter confront them about it?
- How does Luke describe the miracles done by the apostles and the people's response?
- What reasons do the religious authorities give for arresting the apostles, and what actions do they take after the arrest?
- How do the apostles react to the Sanhedrin's orders and treatment, according to the closing verses of the chapter?

Something to Learn

The Pharisee Gamaliel comes up one more time in this book, in Acts 22:3. What do we find out there?

- What does the story of Ananias and Sapphira (vv. 1-11) reveal about the seriousness of honesty and integrity within the early Christian community?
- How does the miraculous release of the apostles by the angel (vv. 19-20) demonstrate God's power and support for the spread of the gospel?
- Comment on Gamaliel's speech (vv.34-39). Comment on his logic and how it might – or might not – be applied by leaders in the church today.
- Paul endured a fair amount for his commitment to the gospel. Still, he also wrote Romans 13:1-7 about submission to authorities. How can we resolve that tension?

Something to Take Home

- Think about the story of Ananias and Sapphira one more time. In what way can you contribute to greater honesty or openness before God and others in the church?
- Is there a situation in which you can find joy or purpose in standing firm for your faith, even when it brings challenges or criticism? Compare v.41.
- The apostles continued to proclaim Jesus boldly despite persecution (verse 42). What can we do to make sure this is true for us personally, or for perhaps our church?