

ACTS 5

1. What did Peter tell the people about how the lame man was healed?

-Peter said that Jesus alone healed the lame man.

2. Who controlled Peter so he could witness to the Jews?

-The Holy Spirit.

3. What did Peter tell the Jewish leaders that God did with Jesus whom they had discarded like builders discard a bad stone?

-God gave Jesus the highest position in heaven and earth.

4. What did Peter and John answer when the Jewish leaders told them never to witness again about Jesus?

-They said that they must obey God and tell others of Jesus.

5. When Peter and John were released, what did they do?

-They went back to the gathering of Christians and shared what had happened.

6. When the Church heard what the Jewish leaders had said, what did they do?

-They all prayed together to God.

7. What should we do when we face difficulties,

problems, and temptations?

-We should tell the Church so we can pray together with the Church for God's help and God's answers.

-The early Christians were witnessing to many people, and many people were believing in Jesus.

-Yet, God was allowing the early Church to have some problems.

-The first problem that the Church had was with non Christians.

-The next problem that the Church had did not come from non Christians.

-The next problem that the Church had came from misunderstanding and difficulties among themselves.

-Satan tries to do everything he can to stop the work of Jesus in the Church using non Christians.

-This is called persecution.

-Persecution usually brings Christians closer together.

-Persecution usually helps Christians depend more on God.

-Satan knows that he cannot defeat us with the attacks of non Christians.

-When Satan cannot defeat us with the attacks of non Christians, what does he do?

-He causes Christians to fight one another.

-Satan knows that the best way to hinder God's work is to get God's children fighting one another.

-We must fight Satan, sin, and unbelief, but we must not fight one another.

-When Christians fight with one another, God is no longer able to use us in the way He desires.

-Listen to what happened in the Church in Jerusalem:

Let's read Acts 6:1

1-In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

-The Church in Jerusalem had many widows.

-Because the widows had no family to look after them, the Church was helping the widows.

-In the Church in Jerusalem, there were two different classes of Jews.

-One class was Jews from countries outside of Israel who were now living in Jerusalem.

-Their main language was Greek.

-The other class was Jews from Israel.

-Their main language was Aramaic.

-Here was the problem in the Church in Jerusalem:

-The Greek speaking Jews complained that their widows were not being helped as much as the widows from Israel.

-What did the early Church do about this problem?

Let's read Acts 6:2 & 4

2-So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.

4-[We] will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

-Who were the Twelve?

-They were the men whom Jesus had picked to follow Him.

-They were called apostles.

-What did the apostles do?

-They called all of the disciples together in order to solve the problem.

-Why did the apostles say that they themselves would not be giving food to the widows?

-Because Jesus gave the apostles the work of teaching God's Word and praying for the Church.

-Before Jesus returned to heaven, He commanded the apostles to teach the Word of God to the Church.

-The apostles taught God's Word so that other Christians would also be able to teach one day.

-The apostles were also elders of the Church.

-They prayed for and guided the Christians of the Church.

-The apostles prayed for and guided the Christians so that others would be able to pray for and guide the Church one day.

-To teach God's Word and pray for all of the Christians was the most important work of the apostles.

-Therefore, what did the apostles say to solve the problem?

Let's read Acts 6:3

3-[The Twelve said] "Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them."

-The apostles told the Christians to choose seven men to do the work of giving food to the widows.

-The people who do this type of work are called deacons.

-What type of people did the apostles tell the Church to choose as deacons?

-That they would be full of the Holy Spirit.

-In churches today, how should we choose people for work in the Church?

-It should be clear to everyone that the people are full of the Holy Spirit.

-We should see if someone is already doing that work, and doing it well.

-We should see if someone shows by his life that he is the one God wants to do that work.

-The Church should only choose those whom God has

already chosen.

-We should not choose deacons only because they are family or friends.

-Was the Church happy with the decision of the apostles?

Let's read Acts 6:5-6

5-This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

6-They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

-What did the apostles do to show their approval and support of these men?

-They prayed and laid their hands on them.

-It is important for us to ask God to give His workers wisdom to do God's work.

-It is important for us to support God's workers in their work.

-Because the early Church solved their internal problem with God's help, what happened to the Church?

Let's read Acts 6:7

7-So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

-Many more people believed in Christ.

-Many priests also believed in Christ.

-Now, the Bible tells the story of a man named Stephen.

-Stephen was one of the men chosen to serve the Church.

Let's read Acts 6:8

8-Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people.

-Stephen not only helped to distribute food to the widows, but he also taught God's Word.

-Because Stephen totally trusted God in everything, God the Holy Spirit used Stephen greatly.

-Because Satan could see that God was using Stephen, Satan led some of his children to attack Stephen.

-Those who opposed Stephen were Jews from a synagogue outside of Israel.

Let's read Acts 6:9-15

9-Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia. These men began to argue with Stephen,

10-but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.

11-Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, “We have heard Stephen speak words of blasphemy against Moses and against God.”

12-So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin.

13-They produced false witnesses, who testified, “This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law.

14-For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us.”

15-All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

-How did Stephen answer his accusers?

-Stephen answered by reminding the people of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.

-Although Joseph was rejected and sold by his brothers, God was with Joseph and made him governor over Egypt.

-Although Joseph was rejected and sold by his brothers, God chose Joseph to save his brothers by giving them food and a place to live.

-Stephen said that after Joseph died, a new Pharaoh in Egypt made the Israelites their slaves.

-Moses, the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter, tried to help the Israelites, but the Israelites rejected Moses.

-Although the Israelites rejected Moses, God was with him.

-Although the Israelites rejected Moses, God chose Moses to deliver the Israelites.

-Stephen also reminded the people that:

-Their forefathers rejected Moses when he was leading them through the wilderness.

-Their forefathers rejected Moses and wanted to return to Egypt.

-Their forefathers rejected God and worshiped the idols of the surrounding nations.

-Their forefathers refused to listen to the warnings of God's prophets.

-Their forefathers resisted the words of God spoken by the Holy Spirit through the prophets.

-Finally, Stephen told them that they had rejected and killed Jesus just as their forefathers killed God's prophets.

-Even though Stephen was telling the truth, what was the reaction of the Jews?

Let's read Acts 7:54-60

54-When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.

55-But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

56-"Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

57-At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him,

58-dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59-While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

60-Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord,

do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

-What was the name of the man who kept the coats of the men who stoned Stephen?

-Saul.

-Saul agreed that Stephen should be killed.

-Whom did Stephen see standing at God the Father's right hand?

-Jesus.

-Jesus knew that Stephen was going to be killed, and He was waiting for Stephen to leave his body and come to live with Him in heaven.

-When we die, we may not see Jesus like Stephen did, but we know that Jesus loves us just as much as He loves Stephen.

-Jesus waits to welcome all of His children to the home He is preparing for us just as He welcomed Stephen into heaven.

-Why is Jesus happy to welcome His children in heaven?

-Because He loves us and He wants us to be with Him in heaven.