

Acts 5:12-16 ¹² And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. ¹³ Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. ¹⁴ And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, ¹⁵ so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid *them* on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. ¹⁶ Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

- Is it contradictory that none dared join them after Ananias and Sapphira, but believers were increasingly added to the Lord?
- What was the population's opinion of the Apostles?
- What is the difference between beds and couches?
- Was the shadow of Peter healing?

4

Acts 5:17-21 ¹⁷ Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, ¹⁸ and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. ¹⁹ But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ²⁰ "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life." ²¹ And when they heard *that*, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught. But the high priest and those with him came and called the council together, with all the elders of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

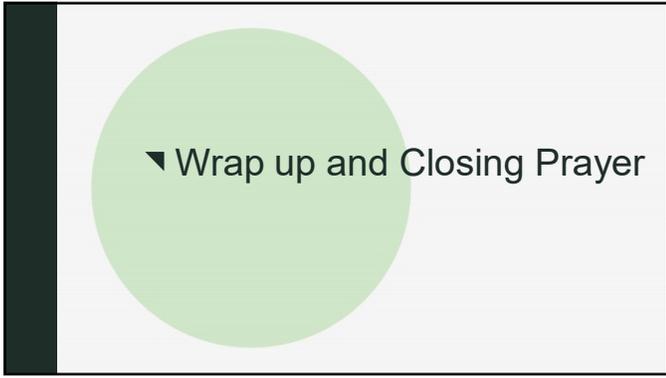
- Why were the Sadducees filled with indignation?
- What is a common prison?
- How many Apostles were arrested?
- Why did God send the Apostles to preach and not the angel?
- With persecution comes purity. Was the purity of the early church perfect?
- Why do you think that God allowed their release here but later permitted their tragic deaths?

5

Acts 5:22-26 ²² But when the officers came and did not find them in the prison, they returned and reported, ²³ saying, "Indeed we found the prison shut securely, and the guards standing outside before the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside!" ²⁴ Now when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these things, they wondered what the outcome would be. ²⁵ So one came and told them, saying, "Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!" ²⁶ Then the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned.

- What did it mean that they wondered what the outcome would be?
- What things trigger faith?
- Where should our focus be when it comes to signs and wonders?
- Why does Luke state "they feared the people, lest they should be stoned."?

6



▼ Wrap up and Closing Prayer

7
