



LESSON 6

ACTS 5:17 - 6:7

1. As you've pondered the life and unity in the early church and the fate of Ananias and Sapphira in our study of **Acts 4:32-5:16**, what truth or insight has impacted you and why?
2. Pray for new understanding as you read **Acts 5:17-6:7**. What is your impression of how the apostles conducted themselves in the light of the persecution and other challenges they were facing?
3. Look back to **Acts 5:12-16**. From **V17**, what were the high priest and his associates jealous of and what are some of the dangers of giving in to jealousy of another's success, whether in spiritual or secular endeavors? James addresses this in **James 3:14-17**.
4. Describe what occurred and how **God** intervened in **Acts 5:18-24**.

5. According to **Acts 5:25-28**, what did the Sanhedrin do and say, and what were they afraid would happen? Refer back to **Acts 4:18-19**.
6. How did Peter and the other apostles reply to the demand to stop teaching and how did they view their role in the spread of the gospel in **Acts 5:29-32**?
7. When have you seen a clash of civil law and **God's** law or in what situation did you have to choose whether to obey **God** rather than men or women? How did you view your responsibility?
8. a) Who was Gamaliel according to **V33-34** and **Acts 22:3**? What prompted him to step in?
- b) What did Gamaliel advise the Sanhedrin in **Acts 5:35-39** and what examples did he use? Do you believe Gamaliel's counsel was wise? Why or why not?

9. In **V40-42**, how did the apostles respond to their suffering and how are you challenged or encouraged by their response?
10. From **Acts 6:1-7**, what was the complaint, what were the priorities reflected in their response, and what priorities are reflected in the church today? For context read **James 1:27**.

12. REFLECT ON THE WORDS OF JESUS

Jesus said, “**When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.**” **Luke 12:11-12**. Think about what unlikely place **God** may be leading you to defend your faith in **Jesus** and spend some time listening to the **Spirit** as He teaches you what to say. Write down your thoughts.

NAME

PRAYER REQUEST