

THE BOOK OF ACTS

March 3, 2019

Acts 5:12-42

READ

Acts 5:12-42

QUESTIONS for REFLECTION

1. What is the significance, or purpose, of “wonders”? (With what, as in 5:12, are they commonly associated?) Who, at this point, is exclusively responsible for “signs and wonders”? What is significant about the signs & wonders done by the apostles (v. 16)?
2. What does the church continue to enjoy despite the fearful events revolving around Ananias & Sapphira (v. 12)? And what is the effect (v. 14)?
3. Separate fact from rumor in vv. 15 & 16.
4. There’s a particular emphasis upon physical needs & healing in these opening verses. Why do our prayers, likewise, seem top-heavy with requests for physical healing? What is, at the same time, often neglected or overlooked?
5. What two reactions are elicited by the church, particularly the apostles, and from whom?
 - v. 13b
 - v. 17
6. How is the aggression of the temple authorities described in vv. 17 & 18? What is the amazing, yet so simply described, response in vv. 19-21? Can you think of other Biblical examples like this? Where do the apostles go and what are they doing (vv. 20-21)? What is the reaction of the authorities upon learning of the missing prisoners (vv. 24, 26)?

7. Based upon Matthew 27:25, why is the statement by the high priest so ironic (v. 28)? And what is Peter's response (v. 30)?

8. How is Jesus a "Prince"? (Do you remember the definition?) What do the following contribute?

- Acts 3:15
- Hebrews 2:10
- Hebrews 12:2

What does "a Savior" do? What does a Savior provide? What is significant about Jesus as a Savior (c.f., Acts 4:12)?

9. What is so important—important to *you*—about repentance? What is significant about the forgiveness of sins? (Do you remember what forgiveness means? What is dismissed in forgiveness? What happens in terms of accountability?)

10. Paraphrase Gamaliel's advice to the Council. What is the effect of his advice (v. 40)?

11. What is the apostles' reaction to their punishment (v. 41)? Why? How do we tend to view suffering shame for Jesus' name (or anything else for that matter)?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

1. I will pray for that which is eternal this week by . . .

2. I will celebrate repentance this week by . . .

3. I will rejoice in the Lord this week by . . .