

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Doctrine and Duty for Disciples Series

Acts of the Apostles

Anger Arise and Warning of Demise

Acts 5:33-42

³³When they heard *this*, they were furious and plotted to kill them. ³⁴Then one in the council stood up, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in respect by all the people, and commanded them to put the apostles outside for a little while. ³⁵And he said to them: "Men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what you intend to do regarding these men. ³⁶For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody. A number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was slain, and all who obeyed him were scattered and came to nothing. ³⁷After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away many people after him. He also perished, and all who obeyed him were dispersed. ³⁸And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; ³⁹but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God."

⁴⁰And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for ^[d]His name. ⁴²And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus *as* the Christ.

1. What caused the Sanhedrim to be angry?
2. Discuss Gamaliel's advice to the council.
 - a. What do we know about Gamaliel and why was he influential?
 - b. Summarize his advice.
 - c. Was it good advice? Why or why not?
 - d. Why was this not godly advice?
 - e. What is godly counsel? What criteria do you use for seeking godly counsel?
3. How does Matthew 5:10-12 relate to these verses? Does this change your perspective persecution and sharing the gospel with others? If so, how?
4. Discuss a practical application of a lesson learned from these verses.