

**The Department of Church Growth and Development**  
**Bible Study Outline**  
**Scripture Text: Acts 5:17-42**

**Lesson #6 Suffering for the Sake of the Gospel**

**Proposition:** Although They must endure suffering, God has many ways to deliver His people from persecution, that they may faithfully proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- 1. God delivered the Apostles by miraculous means. (17-23)**
  - a. The Jewish leaders became angry over the power, popularity and teaching of the Apostles. (17)
  - b. The Apostles were arrested and put into prison. (18)
  - c. The Angel of the Lord freed the Apostles. (19)
  - d. The Angel commanded them to go in the temple and teach. (20)
  - e. The Apostles went in the temple the next morning and taught. (21)
  - f. The Jewish leaders discover that the Apostles were gone. (21-23)
- 2. The Apostles remained faithful under trial. (24-32)**
  - a. The Jewish Leaders pondered the outcome of these events. (24)
  - b. The Jewish leaders received word that the Apostles were teaching in the temple. (25)
  - c. The Apostles were arrested without violence because their popularity and were set before the Sanhedrin Council. (26, 27)
  - d. The High Priest questioned the Apostles. (27, 28)
    - i. About violating the command not to teach in Jesus' Name.
    - ii. About filling Jerusalem with their doctrine.
    - iii. About intending to bring Jesus' blood on them.
  - e. Peter and the Apostles answered the high priest. (29-32)
    - i. We ought to obey God rather than men.
    - ii. You did murder Jesus by hanging Him on a tree.
    - iii. But the God of our fathers Raised Him from the dead and exalted Him to sit at His right hand to be prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel, and to give forgiveness of sins.
    - iv. We are His witnesses to these things.
    - v. Holy Spirit is also His witness.
    - vi. God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him.
- 3. God delivered the Apostles by the counsel of a wise man. (33-40)**
  - a. Angered by the Apostles' response, the Jewish leaders plotted to kill them. (33)
  - b. Gamaliel stood and commanded them to remove the Apostles. (34)
  - c. He warned them to be careful how they handled these men. (35)
  - d. He reminded them that other rebels had come to nought. (36, 37)
    - i. Theudas, who led 400 men was slain and his movement ended.
    - ii. Judas of Galilee also perish, and his followers dispersed.
  - e. He commanded them to leave the Apostles alone. (38, 39)
    - i. If this work is of men, it will come to nought.
    - ii. If it is of God, you can't overthrow it. Lest, you even be found to fight against God.
  - f. The Sanhedrin Court agreed with him. (40)
    - i. They called for the Apostles and had them flogged.
    - ii. They commanded them not to speak in the name of Jesus and let them go.
- 4. Upon leaving the Sanhedrin Council, the Apostles rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. They continued to faithfully teach and preach. (41, 24)**