

ACTS

"The Ministry in Jerusalem (Acts 3-7)"

May 26, 2019

PERSECUTION #1: THE FIRST ARREST (ACTS 3 & 4)

The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people... They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. Acts 4:1, 3

"...Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. Acts 4:12-13

Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." After further threats they let them go... On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God... "Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness"... And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. Acts 4:18-21a, 23-24a, 29, 31

Response: They _____ for more _____ & _____ boldly.

PERSECUTION #2: THE SECOND ARREST (ACTS 5:17-25)

Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people all about this new life." At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people... Then someone came and said, "Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people." Acts 5:17-21a, 25

Response: They continued to _____.

PERSECUTION #3: THE THIRD ARREST + BEATING (ACTS 5:26-42)

The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings! Acts 5:27-29

His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah. Acts 5:40-42

Response: They _____ and continued to _____.

PERSECUTION #4: STONING OF STEPHEN (ACTS 6:8-7:60)

Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen... who began to argue with Stephen. But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke. Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God." Acts 6:8-9

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep. Acts 7:59-60

Response: Stephen _____ his persecutors & the church _____ the message with the _____.

CONCLUSION

Big Question: Am I willing to pay a price?

Two main convictions that lead to a "yes" answer:

1. There is no other _____ (Acts 4:12)
2. There is no other _____ (Acts 4:9; 5:29)

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