

# *How to Read the Bible for All its Worth*

## Lesson 6b: Acts 3-5 – Early Events in the Church

### *Introduction*

Once the church was established and began to grow, it was hard to hide the fact that a number of people in Jerusalem were listening to their preaching. The existing Jewish establishment began to resist the church and thus we will see the beginning of the early persecution of the church.

### *Acts 3:1-10 – The Healing of the Lame Man*

Why did the Lord give the Apostles in the early church the ability to heal?

What was the nature of this man's infirmity? Did he just have a broken leg or was it more serious?

What is the difference between this healing and the ones claimed by "miracle healers" in the world?

### *Acts 3:11-26 – Peter's Message to the crowd*

To whom did Peter attribute the ability to heal this man? How is this relevant to us today? Why is this the perfect way to begin the sermon he is about to preach?

Where did Peter place the blame for Christ's death?

What does it mean in verse 26 when it says, "Unto you first..."? Also see Rom. 1:16 & Acts 18:5-6.

### *Acts 4:1-22 – Peter and John's Arrest and Interrogation*

Why did the chief priests, Pharisees and Sadducees feel so threatened by their preaching?

What does verse 11 mean, "This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders..."

Does Peter allow for any other means of salvation besides Christ?

What astonishes the interrogators about Peter and John?

When told not to preach Jesus anymore, what is Peter and John's response? How is it significant to us today in our situation?

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### Acts 4:23-31 – *The Church's Growth in the Face of Adversity*

What was the request made of the Lord in response to the events that took place and why did they make that request?

Why would this be a request that the Lord would be willing to grant?

What does it mean to be, “filled with the Holy Spirit”? How was this an answer to their prayer?

### Acts 4:37-5:11 – *Early Church Discipline: The Death of Ananias and Sapphira*

*Deuteronomy 23:21-22* – “When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee. But if thou shalt forbear to vow, it shall be no sin in thee.”

What was the church doing that was such a radical step on the part of the members?

What was Ananias' and Sapphira's sin? Why would they have done this?

How was it that they lied to God? See 1 Thessalonians 4:8.

Why did the Lord exact so great a punishment upon them? See Deuteronomy 13:6-11

What does this example teach us today concerning sin in the church and the importance of exercising loving church discipline?

### Acts 5:12-42 – *The Arrest of the Apostles and the Reaction of the Jewish Leaders*

When the apostles were arrested the second time, why did the angel release them?

What punishment was ultimately inflicted upon them by the chief priests and rulers?

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What was the apostle's reaction to the punishment and what do we learn from this?

### *Assignments:*

Read Acts 6:1 – 7:60 and answer the following questions:

1. What motivated the apostles to have deacons ordained?
2. What were the qualifications of a deacon?
3. What did the Jews have to do in order to bring charges against Stephen?
4. Why does Stephen recount the history of the nation of Israel? (Note: This is a good summary of Israel's early history. It is worth taking your time to read and understand.)
5. What spiritual points does Stephen try to make with this message (see vss. 37, 48-50, and 51-53)?
6. What put the Jews over the edge in their rage against Stephen?
7. Of the things Stephen said and did while being stoned, what most impresses you?