

/We will now begin the sixth lecture of Acts. /Today we will begin with Acts 4:19.

/Read 4:19. /But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God.

/Peter and John were in danger before the Sanhedrin. /Members of the Sanhedrin told them to refrain from evangelizing. /They told them to stop witnessing to Jesus. /They threatened Peter and John.

/In verse 19, Peter and John replied. /"Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God." /We believers must acknowledge God's Word more than the words of people.

/It is right to listen to the word of God. /It was right to listen to God's word as opposed to the words of the Sanhedrin. /We must acknowledge God's authority.

/Peter and John did not give in to the threats of the Sanhedrin. /The apostles carried out their mission until the end.

/Verse 20. /For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

/"We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." /They laid down their lives to carry out their calling. /They acknowledged God's authority and decided to live with God at the center of their lives.

/We cannot stop testifying to the truth. /If we do not preach the truth, we will become like mute dogs. /God helps people like Peter and John. /Evangelizing is not a difficult thing for us to do.

/We only need to evangelize what we see and hear. /What is a witness? /Let us say that someone saw a certain incident take place. /That witness only needs to say what he saw at that time. /In the same way, we only need to witness to what we know about Jesus.

/Verse 21. /After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened.

/These rulers wanted to kill the apostles. /However, they feared the people. /That is because the apostles healed the crippled man. /The people acknowledged the apostles.

/Therefore, these rulers threatened Peter and John and let them go. /We must not fear people. /Proverbs 29:25 /When we evangelize, we do so by the authority of God.

/We lose our conscience if we do not evangelize because someone threatens us. /The rulers here threw away their consciences. /They closed their ears from hearing Peter's sermon. /However, Peter and John lived according to their consciences.

/The apostles followed the Holy Spirit and the truth. /They were bold in their reliance on God. /Therefore, God's power was shown through them. /They were able to glorify God.

/Verse 22. /For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

/The crippled man who appears from 3:1 was over forty years old. /He was crippled for forty years since his birth. /However, he was healed by the power of God.

/Verse 23. /On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.

/Peter and John were released from prison. /Then they went to find the believers. /Other believers prayed earnestly in John Mark's attic. /Acts 12:12

/The people in prison kept their faith, and those outside of prison prayed earnestly for the apostles who were in prison. /Peter and John were released.

/Then the apostles went to find the believers and told them of the things that happened to them. /They testified to the works of God.

/Verse 24. /When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.

/Peter and John praised God. /They thanked God. /Of course, the believers also joined them in giving thanks and praises to God. /Our God is sovereign, and he is the ruler over all creation and the seas.

/He is the Creator God. /They praised this God. /The believers of the early church became one in heart and mind.

/They prayed for the apostles as if they were imprisoned themselves. /Hebrews 13:3 /The Creator God saved the apostles.

/Verses 25-26. /You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: "'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.'

/The people quoted Psalm 2:1-2. /Here it says that kings of the earth gather together against Christ. /They will stand against Christ, but they will be acts done in vain.

/It is foolish to go against Jesus. /No matter how advanced they were, they could never defeat Jesus. /It is a foolish thing to take an egg and hit it against a stone.

/Verse 27. /Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the

people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.

/God's word was fulfilled. /Pilate united with the Gentiles and Israel to kill Jesus.

/Verse 28. /They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

/It was all fulfilled according to God's power and plan. /Many people went against Jesus, but ultimately, everything happened in accordance with the plan of God. /Christianity does not disappear because some people stand against Jesus.

/The hypocritical religious leaders crucified Jesus on the cross, but Jesus resurrected as was planned. /Everything happens according to God's promised plan. /Luke 22:22

/Judas Iscariot's murder of Jesus, the high priests and Pilate's murder of Jesus all took place according to God's plan. /God uses the wicked. /Proverbs 14:4

/However, the wicked will surely receive judgment. /The people who crucified Jesus on the cross will receive judgment. /Those who persecuted the apostles will also receive judgment.

/Verse 29. /Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

/They prayed that the Lord would keep them safe from the threats of their enemies. /Here, the believers did not pray for the destruction of their enemies. /They only prayed for protection from the threats of their enemies.

/The believers left the wrongdoings of their enemies in God's hands. /1 Peter 2:23 /Jesus loved His enemies until the end. /Then Jesus only did what He needed to do.

/We must also pray to God when we encounter hardships. /We must also pray for protection.

/Here, the believers prayed, "Enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness." /"Let us not tremble in fear during hardships, but enable us to speak your word with great boldness!"

/Verse 30. /Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

/They prayed for signs and wonders to occur. /They prayed for spiritual gifts. /This was because these things would aid them in delivering the gospel. /This is not so that they would glorify themselves.

/They received these powers and hoped that they would be useful when delivering the

gospel. /When we preach the gospel, those we evangelize to will first be healed of their spiritual illnesses. /Then they will be healed of their sicknesses in their hearts. /Then they will be healed of their physical sicknesses as well.

/Verse 31. /After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

/They were filled with the Holy Spirit when they prayed to God. /The place where they were meeting was shaken. /This displayed God's presence. /Acts 16:26 /Isaiah 6:4 /It says that they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

/We must also strive to be filled with the Holy Spirit. /We must preach the gospel with the power that God gives us and with the Holy Spirit. /Then God's works will take place.

/Verse 32. /All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.

/The believers were one in heart and one in mind. /They shared all of their possessions and handed out their own materials to one another. /They transcended their possessions. /They compromised their rights. /Then they each harbored Jesus in their hearts.

/They became one in heart and one in mind. /They gave their all for Jesus and the gospel. /They threw away their materialistic greed. /We must remember that we are God's stewards.

/We Christians acknowledge private property. /It is all right to become wealthy through hard work. /However, we must know that everything comes from God. /Therefore, we must use our possessions for the church and for the believers.

/There were none who felt pressured by the sharing of possessions during the time of the early church. /They were not forced to do this, but they shared voluntarily as they thought of those going through hardships.

/Verse 33. /With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.

/The apostles testified to the resurrection of Jesus with great power. /Because they prayed earnestly with the power of the Holy Spirit, /God gave them power. /Thus, the apostles testified to the resurrection of Jesus with the power God gave them.

/We must also pray a lot. /We must take the power that God gives us and preach the gospel. /Therefore, the believers who evangelized received great grace.

/Verses 34-35. /There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

/The believers sold their possessions and distributed them to anyone who were in need. /The believers who received great grace came with the heart to give to God. /Offering is a fruit of faith. /Faith grows through offerings.

/It is an offering that God is pleased with. /We must not give with reluctant hearts, but give offerings to God with our whole hearts.

/We must offer God our possessions with thankfulness that he saved us. /We must give to God knowing that everything belongs to God's.

/Verses 36-37. /Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

/Here, there is Barnabas. /He was a man of great wealth in Jerusalem. /He was from Cyprus. /He was a Levite. /His nickname was Barnabas.

/The name Barnabas means, "son of encouragement." /He was an encourager. /He sold his property and offered it before the apostles. /He gave thanks for God's grace of redemption and offered it to God.

/This Barnabas later became a pastor. /He became an evangelist. /Paul went on his first missionary with Barnabas. /Barnabas introduced Paul to the church and nominated him.

/Then Barnabas, along with Paul, became an important figure in the church of Antioch. /He was a faithful servant. /He was a servant who offered his possessions to God. /He became a great servant and an example to the early church.

/We will continue our lecture with Acts chapter 5. /The title is "Ananias and Sapphira."

/First, the punishment of Ananias and Sapphira. / Verses 1-11. /Second, evangelizing with power. /Verses 12-16. /Third, evangelism in the midst of persecution. /Verses 17-32. /Fourth, the path opened in the midst of persecution. /Verses 33-42.

/Read 5:1-3. /Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet. Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"

/There were Ananias and his wife Sapphira. /They sold their property and offered only a fraction of the money they received from selling their land. /Originally, they had agreed to give all of what they received.

/Then they became worried about how they would live if they offered all that they had? / Hence, they kept a portion to themselves and offered some of it. /It would have been all right if they had decided to offer just a portion to God from the beginning.

/However, it was wrong of them to have offered just a portion of it after promising to offer it all to God. /In 4:36-37, Barnabas sold his possessions and offered it to God.

/Many people complimented him. /Therefore, Ananias and Sapphira wished to receive praise as well. /However, Ananias and his wife sold their possessions and tried to offer their money to God for self-glorification.

/They thought to themselves, Barnabas received such glory, so we must also receive glory. /Ananias kept a part of the money he received from selling his property and took the remaining money to the apostles. /At that time, Peter rebuked him.

/Then what was Ananias and Sapphira's sin? /First, it was self-glorification. /They sold their property to be glorified. /They wished to become well-known by offering a great amount of money.

/Second is greed. /They planned to offer all they had to God, but only presented a fraction of it. /This happened because of the greed that entered their hearts. /They abandoned their faith and followed their greed instead.

/Greed is idolatry. /Colossians 3:5 /It is a sin to love money. /1 Timothy 6:10 /The next thing Ananias and Sapphira did wrong was third, they lied. /They abandoned their conscience and the truth.

/Satan was a liar from the beginning. /John 8:44 /In the same way, they deceived the Holy Spirit. /They deceived God. /Fourth, they acted in hypocrisy.

/On the outside, they coated their actions with righteousness and goodness. /They pretended to give all they had to God.

/However, their hearts were full of injustice. /They deceived the Holy Spirit. /We cannot deceive the Holy Spirit. /Yet, Ananias and Sapphira deceived the Holy Spirit.

/Verse 4. /Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

/All of man's possessions belong to God. /We are stewards. /God assigned us temporary missions. /Psalm 24:1 /Therefore, we must live by the Lord's will in everything we do.

/We must use our God-given wealth and materials for his will. /If we use them for God's will, its merits will remain forever. /We must perform each task well through the

inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

/We must use our material goods for God's will. /These people did not lie to man, but to God. /If they had only brought a portion, they should have said, "We only brought a portion."

/However, they brought a portion and then lied, saying, "We brought all that we have." /No one can deceive God. /We cannot deceive our consciences.

/Verse 5. /When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened.

/Ananias' soul left him. /He died. /Death refers to the separation of the body and the spirit. /God punished Ananias. /God poured out his wrath.

/Sin and yeast entered the early church. /The works of God began to take place. /There were many who received salvation. /At that time, the devil entered Ananias and Sapphira.

/Yeast entered the church. /The idea of self-honor and glorification entered. /Hypocrisy entered, /lies entered, /and greed entered. /These are the devil's attempts to destroy the church.

/At that time, Peter governed Ananias and Sapphira. /When yeast enters the church, it must be removed. /If yeast is not thrown away, it will later spread throughout the church.

/Governing must be done well. /1 Corinthians 5:5 /1 Corinthians 5:7 /Then, did Ananias and Sapphira go to hell? /It seems as if these people believed in Jesus. /It does not seem as if they went to hell.

/However, their physical bodies were completely destroyed. /Then in the end, it was only their souls that were barely saved.

/Verses 6-7. Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him. About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

/Some young men buried Ananias and came back. /His wife came in about three hours later. /Sapphira did not know that her husband was dead.

/Sapphira also thought of the same lie. /She also went forth wanting to receive glory and honor.

/Verse 8. /Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" "Yes," she said, "that is the price."

/Peter asked Sapphira, "Is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" /If Sapphira

had used her conscience and repented, she would not have died. /However, Sapphira had conspired with her husband.

/She did not use her conscience. /She deceived the Holy Spirit. /She lost the chance to repent. /She lied.

/Verses 9-10. /Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also." At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

/Ananias and Sapphira conspired together. /They tested the Lord's Spirit. /They deceived the Holy Spirit. /We must always be truthful. /We must repent of our sins immediately.

/In a marriage, a partner must not take part in the other's wrongdoing. /When the spouse does wrong, the partner must speak up so the spouse does not sin. /If a partner participates in the spouse's sin, both will be destroyed. /1 Corinthians 5:8

/Yeast must be thrown away. /Yeast entered the early church through Ananias and Sapphira. /At that time, Peter got rid of the yeast. /Thus, the church flourished.

/Then what are some signs of a true church? /There are three signs of a true church. /First, the church must properly deliver the Word of God. /It must deliver the Word of Truth correctly.

/It must spread the right truth. /It must testify to the Bible as it is. /Second, sacraments must be properly performed. /Sacraments include baptism and communion. /Baptism and communion must be properly performed.

/Third, the church must diligently discipline. /It must rule justly. /It must remove yeast.

/The church becomes corrupt when sin enters. /Therefore, sin must be prevented from entering the church. /Sin must be removed.

/Verse 11. /Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

/The entire church and the people heard this and became afraid. /God's authority was revealed. /The apostles' authorities were present. /God lifted up those servants. /People came to fear God.

/Verse 12. /The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.

/Many miraculous signs and wonders appeared through the apostles. /The power of God appeared once sin was removed.



/Verse 13. /No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people.

/Unbelievers did not join the believers. /Unbelievers feared the apostles. /However, the apostles were highly regarded by the people. /They commended the apostles.

/Verse 14. /Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.

/The number of believers of Jesus grew to reach tens of thousands. /The early church experienced gradual growth. /The number of believers gradually increased.

/Verses 15-16. /As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

/When Peter evangelized, he healed the sick. /Many of the sick came to find him. /Some even came to find Peter's shadow. /All the sick were healed.

/This was the appearance of God's great and powerful works. /This was not the power of man, but the power of God.

/Verses 17-18. /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.

/The high priest and his associates were filled with jealousy and they rose up. /They grew jealous of the apostles. /They put the apostles in the public jail. /When God's great power appears, Satan's works appear as well.

/Satan entered the high priest and associates. /These hypocritical religious leaders grew jealous. /These people were filled with jealousy. /They were filled with sin.

/However, the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit. /They were filled with faith. /They were filled with grace. /God was with them. /These wicked people threw the apostles in prison.

/The apostles were persecuted while keeping their faith. /They were imprisoned while preaching the gospel. /2 Timothy 1:8 /Matthew 5:11-12

/Verse 19. /But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out.

/An angel came to the apostles. /He freed the apostles from jail. /The jail doors were

opened by the power of God.

/Verse 20. /"Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life."

/God used his angel to free the apostles. /God's purpose in freeing them was so that they would go evangelize to the people. /We must also have faith to evangelize.

/Verse 21. /At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people. When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin-- the full assembly of the elders of Israel-- and sent to the jail for the apostles.

/The apostles entered the temple courts and began to evangelize after they came out of jail. /The high priest and his associates prepared to punish the apostles. /They commanded people to seize the apostles.

/Verses 22-23. /But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, "We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside."

/At that time, the jail doors were closed but there was no one inside. /The officers reported this. /God freed the apostles from jail through his power.

/Verses 24-25. /On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were puzzled, wondering what would come of this. Then someone came and said, "Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people."

/They were puzzled. /They thought, how could this be? /At that time, someone came and reported, "The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people."

/Verse 26. /At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

/They brought the apostles, but they did not know what to do. /The people liked the apostles. /The apostles relied only on the power of God. /They were not afraid.

/Verses 27-28. /Having brought the apostles, they made them 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."

/The high priest questioned the apostles. /He asked them two things. /First, /why didn't they obey strict orders not to teach in Jesus' name? /Second, they were determined to make the Sanhedrin guilty of Jesus' blood.

/They were guilty of Jesus' blood. /In reality, the high priest had taken a part in Jesus' crucifixion. /However, they were saying themselves that they were not responsible for anything.

/How wicked were they? /The high priest is the one who allowed Jesus to be killed. /Now, he was avoiding responsibility.

/Verse 29. /Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!

/Peter and the apostles said that they must obey God. /They acknowledged the power of God. /They boldly testified to Christ, even amidst persecution.

/Verses 30-31. /The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead-- whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.

/Peter evangelized when he was given the opportunity. /He testified to Jesus. /He told the people to repent. /He told them that God raised up Jesus as Savior. /Peter testified with great boldness.

/Verse 32. /We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

/The apostles called themselves Jesus' witnesses. /They testified to Jesus' resurrection. /God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey him. /The Holy Spirit moves hearts and gives guidance.

/We receive the Holy Spirit when we believe in Jesus. /We receive inspiration of the Holy Spirit when we obey. /We receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit when we obey. /We receive inspiration and gifts of the Holy Spirit when we believe in Jesus, /receive the Holy Spirit, and obey.

/Verse 33. /When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.

/When the Sanhedrin heard this, their hearts were pierced, but they still refused the repent. /Their sins were evident. /Their authority diminished. /They were arrogant. /They pursued authoritarianism.

/Verse 34. /But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while.

/Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, appears in this verse. /A "teacher of the law" was one who taught the law. /He was conservative. /Acts 22:3 /This person addressed to the Sanhedrin. /He said that Theudas appeared some time ago.

/However, this person was killed and all who followed this person scattered.

/Verse 35. /Then he addressed them: "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men.

/Then in verse 37, Judas the Galilean appeared. /The people were scattered after this person was killed. /This occurred in AD 6.

/Verses 38-39. /Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."

/He claimed that if the apostle's works were from God, it would continue, but if it was of human origin, it would fail. /He claimed that they could not go against them if the works of the apostles was from God.

/Verse 40. /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 Sanhedrin heard Gamaliel's speech, and let the apostles go after having them flogged. /The Sanhedrin told the apostles not to speak in the name of Jesus. /The Sanhedrin was also guilty of flogging the apostles.

/It is a sin to flog a person who is without sin. /However, the apostles were full of delight. /They were joyful for being insulted. /Matthew 5:11-12

/It is a great reward to be persecuted and insulted in the name of Jesus. /2 Peter 4:13 /Galatians 6:17 /It is a glorious thing to be insulted for the Lord.

/Verse 42. /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 Christ.

/Whether they were in the temple courts or going from house to house, the apostles never stopped teaching people about Jesus. /They evangelized with great diligence. /We must also evangelize wherever we go, from the temple courts and from house to house.

/We must evangelize without ceasing. /We must work hard. /We must continue to evangelize and be prepared in season and out of season. / We must continue to evangelize whether others listen to us or don't.

/We must testify about Jesus, even if we are persecuted. /This is life saving works. /This is something God is pleased with.

/We will conclude the sixth lecture of Acts. /Thank you.