



"Signs and Wonders"

Acts 5:12-16
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The Big Idea: God will do as He pleases for the glory of His name and for the good of His Church. This means that God will purify the Church and the Church has the responsibility to pursue **purity** and **holiness**. The church is to labor with all of its might, in the strength that the Lord provides to reach the lost, knowing that God will bring **growth** in His time.

Acts 5:12-16

¹² "At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico. ¹³ But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴ And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number, ¹⁵ to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them. ¹⁶ Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.

God Purifies the Church

- Luke wants us to recognize that the events of verses **12-16** should not be viewed separately from the first **11** verses.
- The church should live in holy **fear** and **awe** of the God who judges faithfully.
- When done biblically, proper **church discipline** will not harm or detract from the Body of Christ.
- One of the marks of a true church is that it does not shy away from church discipline.
- When sin is allowed to run rampant in a church, it will always lead to disastrous **results**.
- A little **sin** can make a big impact.

God Empowers the Church

- The miracles performed by the apostles were used to **authenticate** their message.
- In the Bible, miracles are often used during major moments in redemptive history.
- Acts 5:12-16 is the answer to the prayer of Acts **4:29-30**.
- There are no **modern apostles**.
- The purpose of miracles is that God would be **glorified**.

God's Will for the Church

- The miracle authenticated the **message**, but the miracle itself did not make the **believer**.
- God's will for the church is that God will be **glorified**.
- The purpose of the Christian's gifts is to point others to Christ.
- God's will is for the church to be set apart as **holy**.

God Builds the Church

- God alone will build the Church.
- **Acts 5:16** is the first time where we see people from outside Jerusalem coming to the apostles.
 - God is **drawing** in and **sending** out.
- The Church is built on the Chief Cornerstone: Jesus Christ.

"All that the church does, and can do, when it brings the gospel to lost men is to plant and to water. For results, it is completely dependent on God, who alone can give the increase. But even thus the church is God's co-laborer. Under God, to be sure, yet also together with God, it labors for the highest of all ends, the glory of the Most High."

-R.B. Kuiper