

# Arrested – again!

Acts 5:17- 42



Peter and the other apostles replied..  
“We must obey God rather than men!” v.29

## Previously ...

Acts 5:16 The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.



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 authorities are mostly members of the Sadducees party. (a godless mindset!)

This time they rounded up the other apostles as well. They had broken 'their law'.

# God holds the master key!

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 the full message of this new life." At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.

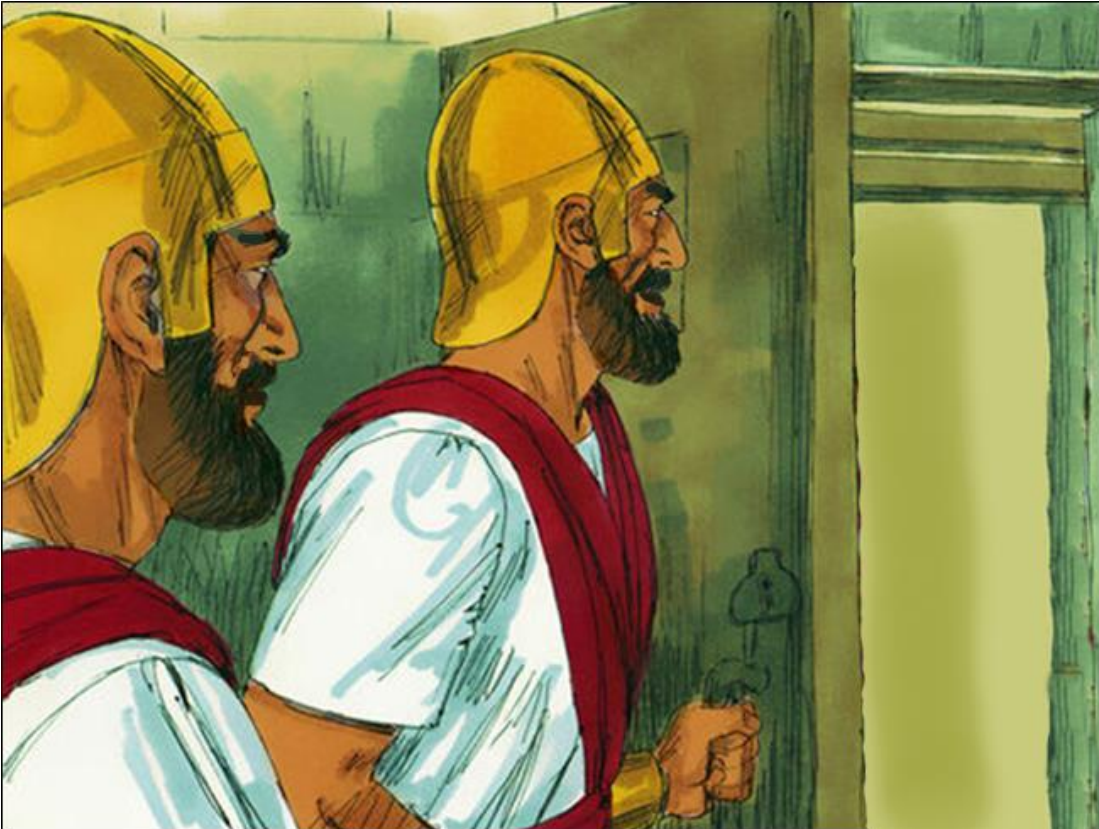


Renewed instructions  
Encouragement that they were  
doing the right thing.

Faith at work rather than fear,  
obeying God's instructions.

## It's a puzzle

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. But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there.



A top security break out!

They've all disappeared.

They can't have escaped, can they?

## Pass on the puzzle

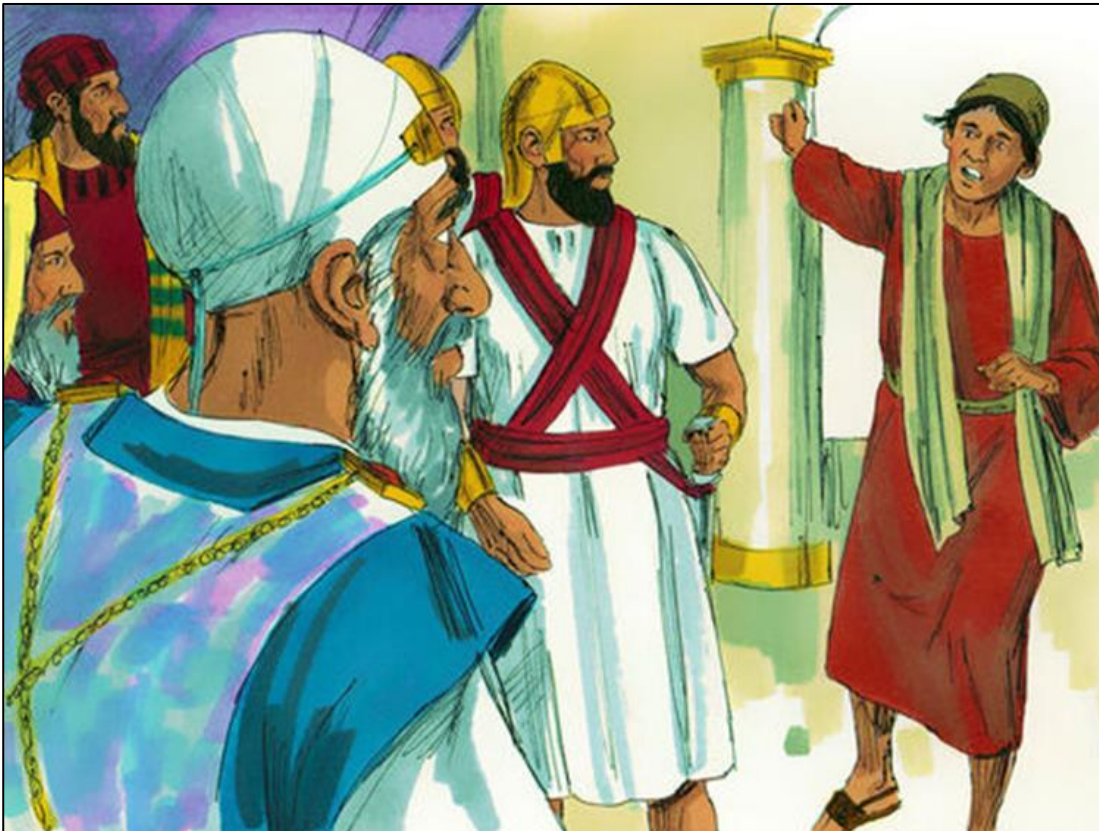
So they went back and reported, "We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside." On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were puzzled, wondering what would come of this.



This ought to be a clue that something unusual is going on with the apostles.

## They are at it again!

Then someone came and said, "Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people." 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 are re-arrested – but gently in public.

The people are on their side.

## Behind closed doors

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.**"

They are!



# Faith in the face of threats

Peter and the other apostles replied..  
“We must obey God rather than men!”

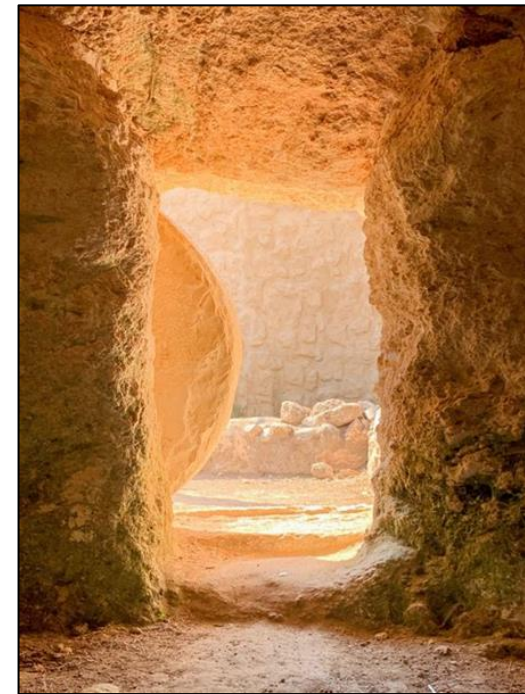


God is bigger than men

A united response

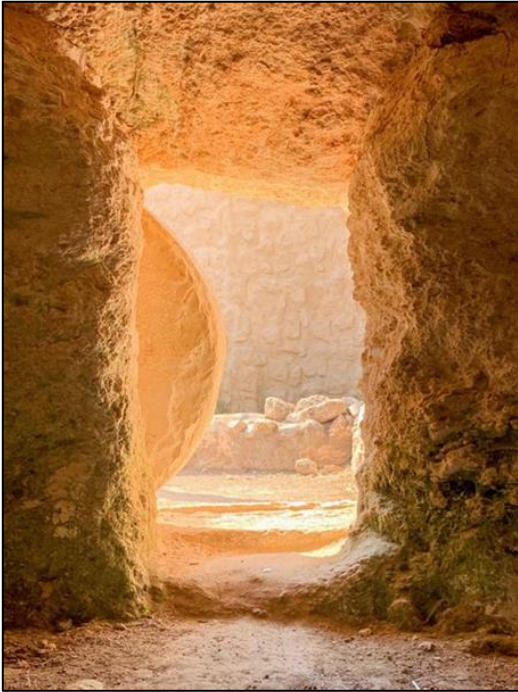
# An empty cross and an empty tomb

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 Saviour that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.



# The Gospel - the apostles and the Holy Spirit witness

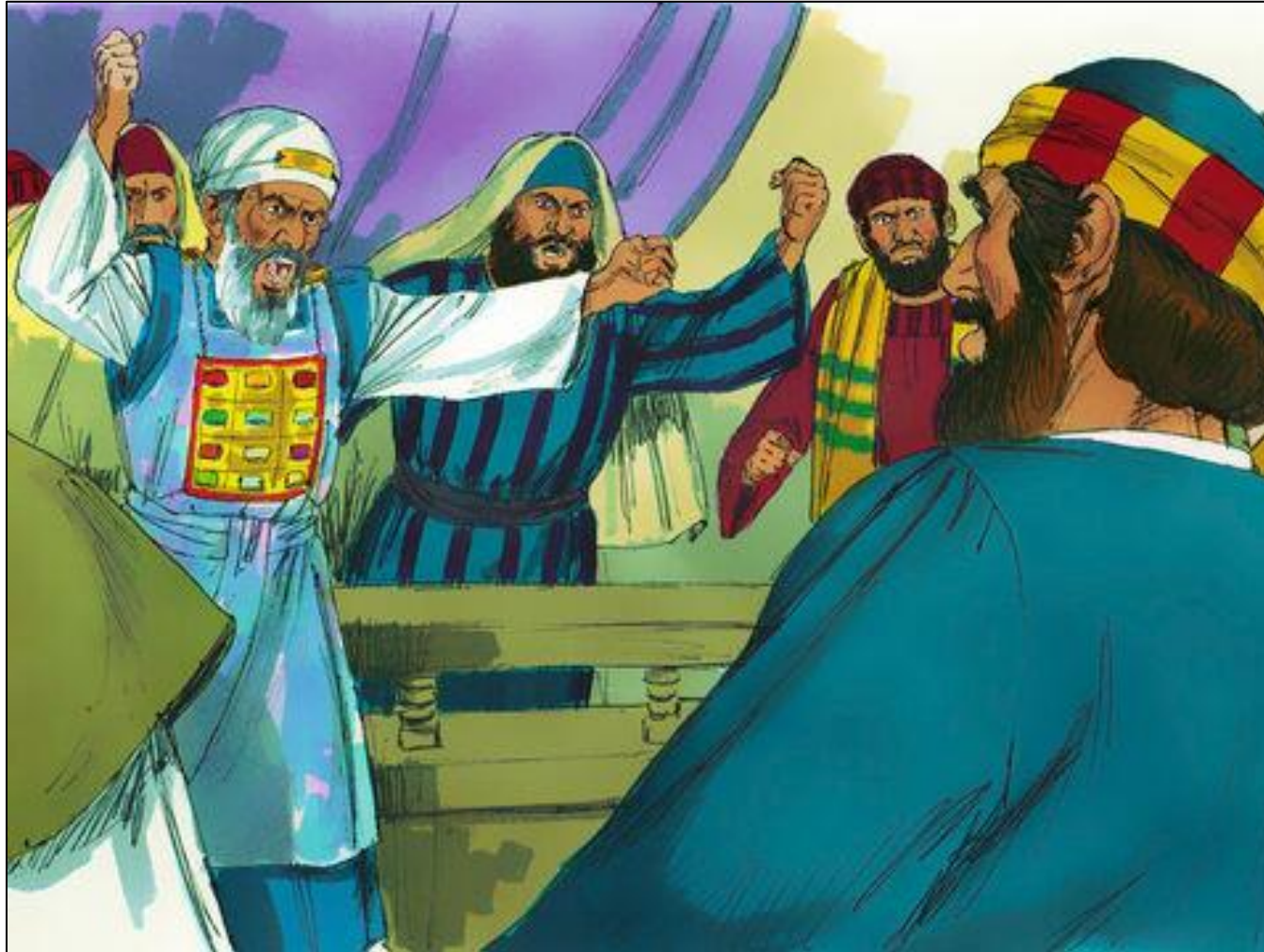
**We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit,  
whom God has given to those who obey him."**



Obey means  
believe and do  
what he says.

## Not a good response

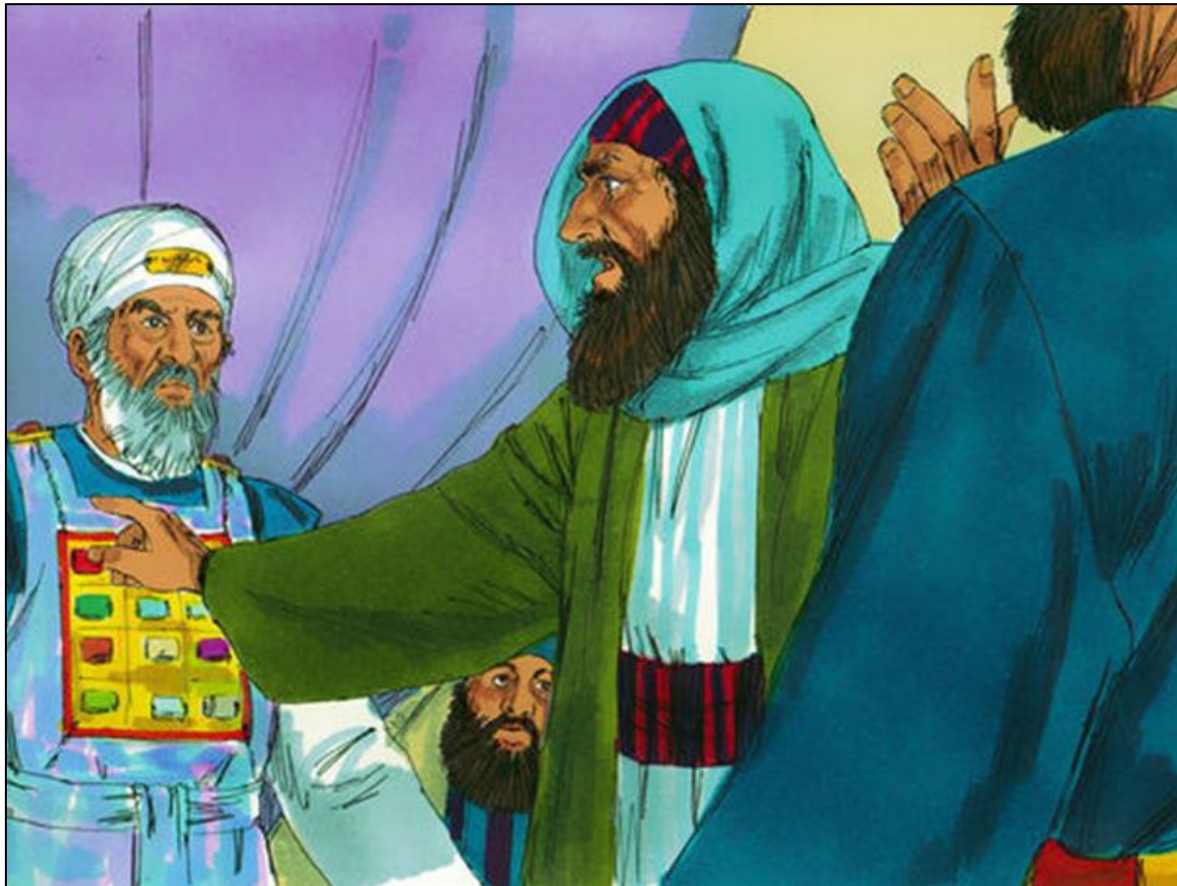
When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.



What made the authorities react this way?

## Just a minute

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



The voice of reason from a respected speaker – Rabbi Gamaliel

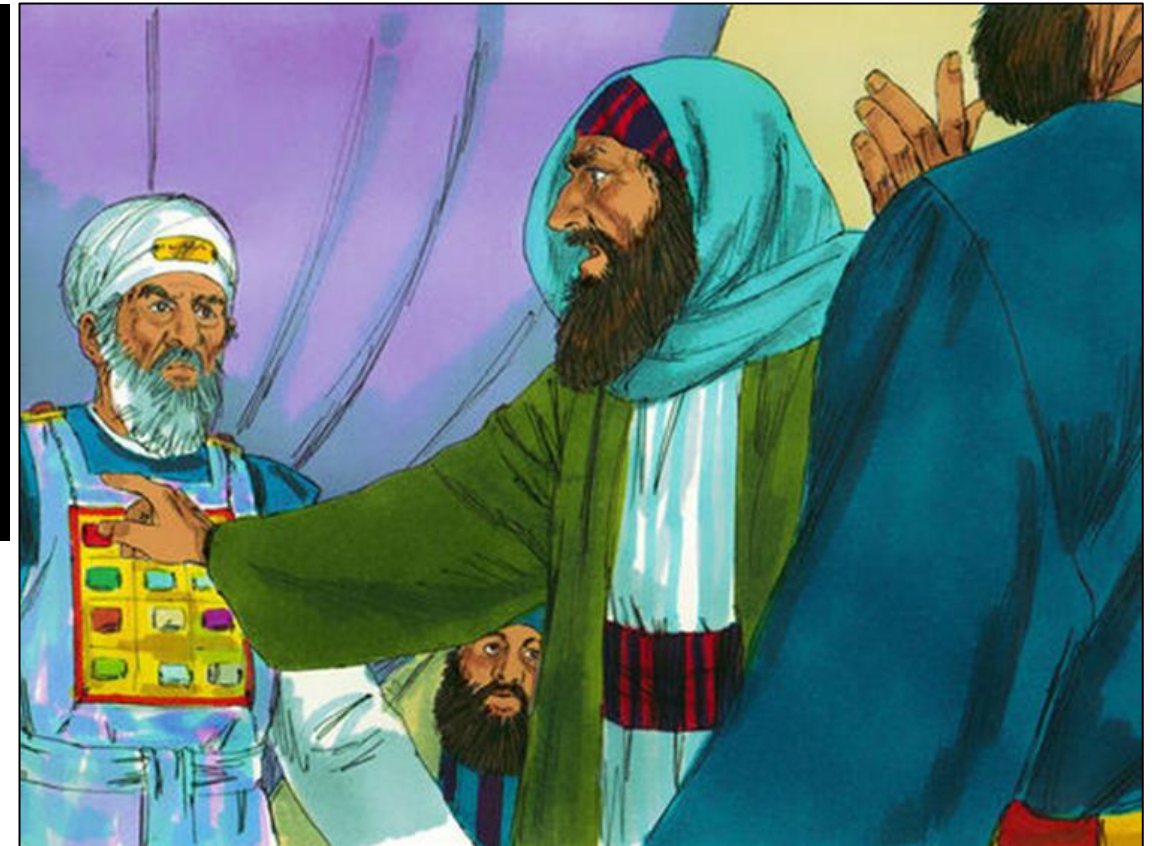
Then he addressed them.. "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered.



**NOTHING  
CAME  
OF  
NOTHING**

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.

**NOTHING  
WILL COME  
OF  
NOTHING**



Why is he defending the believers?

A good argument, but is it true?

## BUT ...

But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men;  
you will only find yourselves fighting against God."



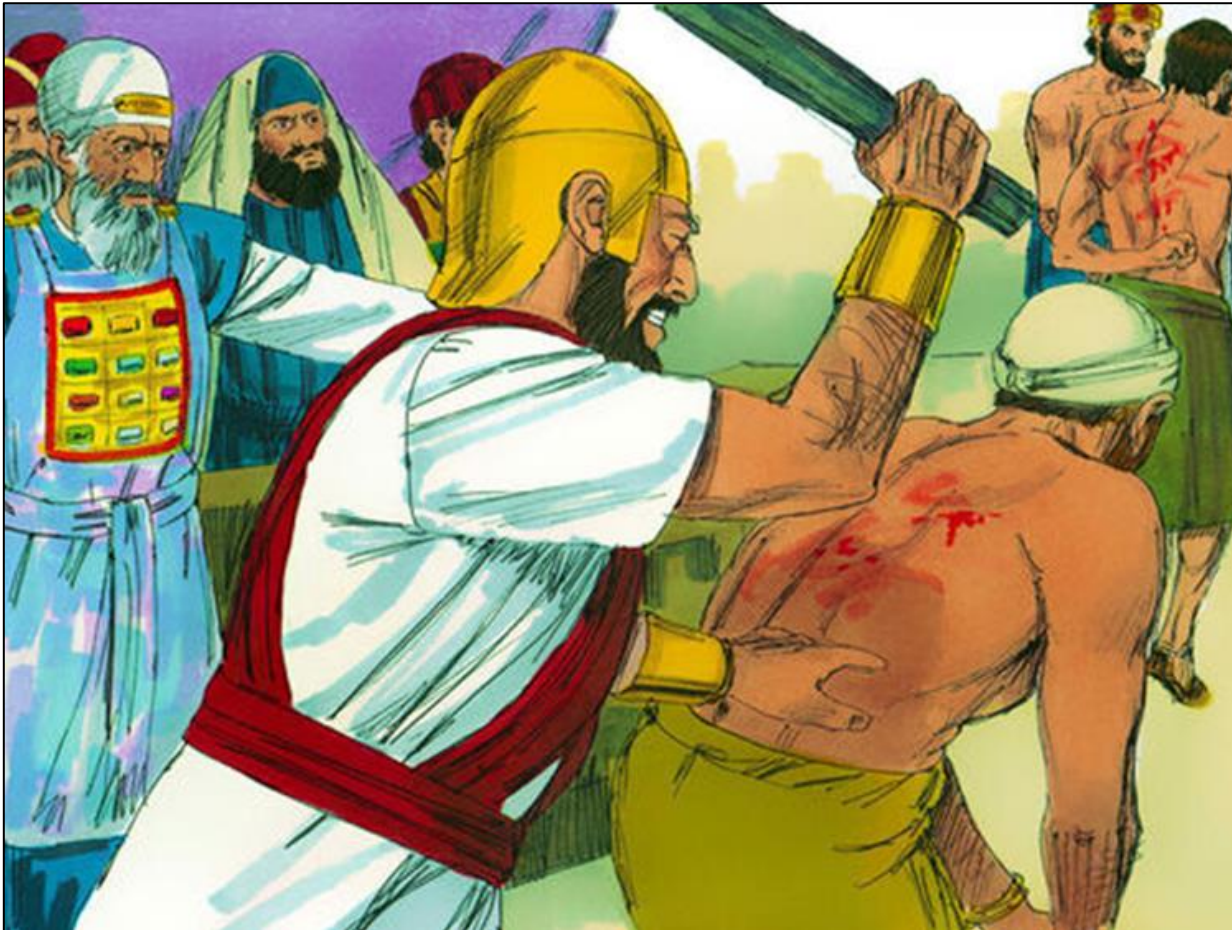
A good argument, but is this true?

Would that make any difference to  
these ungodly leaders?



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.



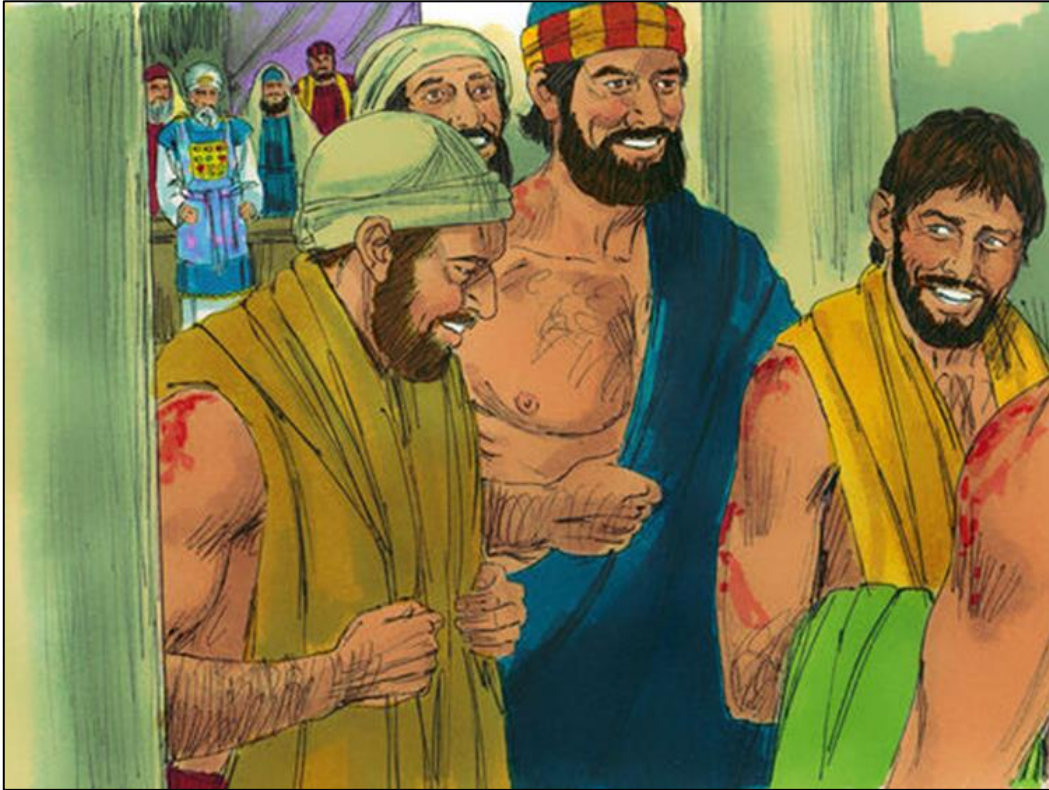
The Lord over-ruled for the benefit of the apostles and the progress of the gospel.

A reminder that their threats are real.

Don't do it again!

You can go now.

## In pain and still rejoicing ???



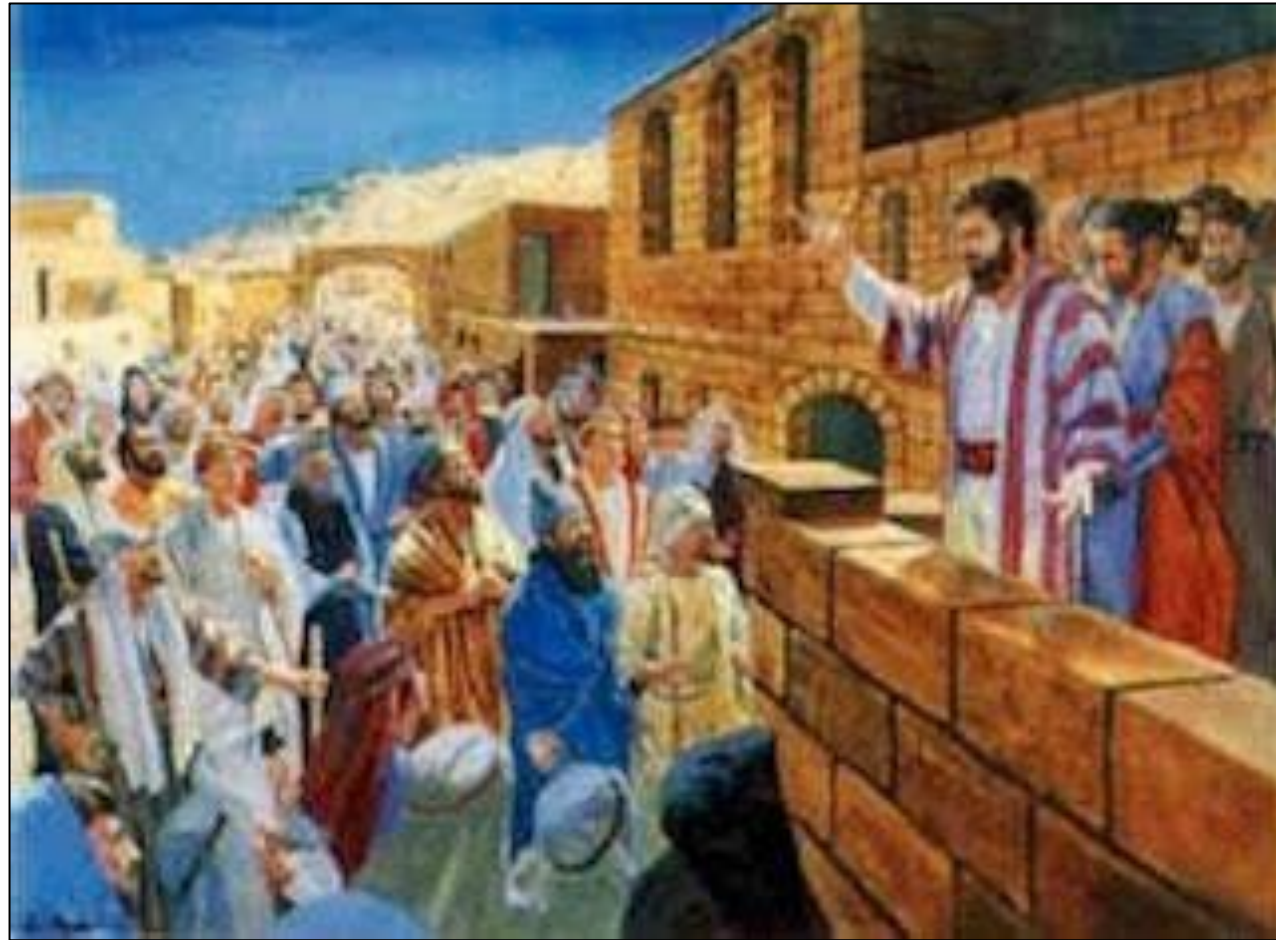
The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

Jesus had told them they could expect such things.  
It was proof of their faithfulness to their Lord

Matthew 5:11-12 “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

# Keeping up the good work

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.





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