

### *Fragile things*

- Fragile: easily broken or damaged
- What are some fragile things?
- What are some non-fragile things?
- How do we tend to think and feel and behave with important things that are also fragile?
- How do you think and feel and behave with the work of God?
  - in your life, in someone else's life, in a church, among a people, ...?

## **Unstoppable**

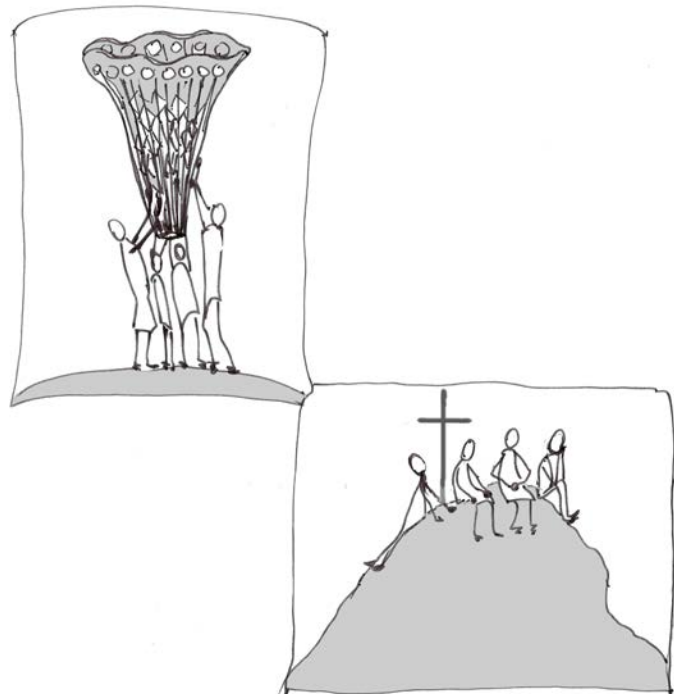
### **Acts 5:17-42**

Chinese: page 1771

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*The Beginning of the Christian Church*

**The church added more people**

**People boldly told about Jesus**

**Many miracles occurred through the apostles**

**Peter & John were arrested and threatened:**

Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. *Acts 4:18*

**More teaching and miracles in Jesus' name**

**More growth in and around Jerusalem**

*Acts 5:17-42*

**17-18:** Sadducees are jealous & arrest the apostles (all?)

19-21a:

21b-26:

27-28:

29-32:

33:

34-39:

40:

41-42:

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### *Jewish religious leaders*

- **Sanhedrin (highest Jewish authority)**
  - **Sadducees** (most priests)
    - Smaller group, yet more power and more money
    - Only accepted 1st 5 books of the Old Testament
    - Didn't believe in resurrection
    - Opponents of apostles (book of Acts)
  - **Pharisees** (laymen)
    - More popular with common people
    - Accepted the Old Testament plus other writings
    - Less strict in understanding than Sadducees
    - More strict in terms of lifestyle
    - Opponents of Jesus (Gospels)

### *Acts 5:17-42*

17-18: Sadducees are jealous & arrest the apostles (all?)

19-21a: • “This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much

21b-26: fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” *John 15:8*

27-28: • The dramatic growth of the church

29-32: led to the “trouble” that actually

33: led to more growth

34-39: • Public shaming of apostles

40:

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*Acts 5:17-42*

17-18: Sadducees are jealous & arrest the apostles (all?)

19-21a: God releases them, commands preaching, and they do

21b-26: • God commands bold disobedience of authorities

27-28: who oppose Him

29-32: • Sometimes avoiding direct conflict is also good

33: • People need to know what is unique about Jesus:

34-39: “Tell the people all about this new life”

• Apostles: no attempt to hide or make the Gospel

40: less controversial

41-42:

*Acts 5:17-42*

17-18: Sadducees are jealous & arrest the apostles (all?)

19-21a: God releases them, commands preaching, and they do

21b-26: Sanhedrin: perplexed by escape, then a timid arrest

27-28: • Feared the people who supported the apostles

29-32:

33:

34-39:

40:

41-42:



*Acts 5:17-42*

17-18: Sadducees are jealous & arrest the apostles (all?)

19-21a: God releases them, commands preaching, and they do

21b-26: Sanhedrin: perplexed by escape, then a timid arrest

27-28: Trial: accusation

29-32: • “Filled Jerusalem” with their teaching

33: • The teaching about Jesus was the real problem

34-39: • Not just being good people, or even doing miracles

• **Key:** the name of Jesus (they avoid it)

40:

41-42:

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27-28: Trial: accusation

29-32: Response: bold restatement of Gospel witness

33: • Death, resurrection, and exaltation of Jesus

34-39: for repentance and forgiveness

• The Trinity:

40: • God the **Father**

41-42: raised and exalted Jesus (the **Son**)

witnessed by the **Holy Spirit**

***Acts 5:17-42***

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 19-21a: God releases them, commands preaching, and they do  
 21b-26: Sanhedrin: perplexed by escape, then a timid arrest  
 27-28: Trial: accusation  
 29-32: Response: bold restatement of Gospel witness  
 33: Response: furious  
 34-39: • Goal: death  
           • Other responses have been ineffective  
 40:  
 41-42:

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 33: Response: furious  
 34-39: Gamaliel (Pharisee):  
           • Either of humans (will end) or of God (don't fight)  
 40: • Tactful politician  
 41-42: • Yet not embracing the Gospel



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- 34-39: Gamaliel (Pharisee):
- Either of humans (will end) or of God (don't fight)
- 40: Apostles were beaten, ordered to stop, and released
- 41-42: • Tried to use shame and pain to stop apostles

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- Either of humans (will end) or of God (don't fight)
- 40: Apostles were beaten, ordered to stop, and released
- 41-42: Rejoicing, and more proclamation of Jesus' name
- **Because** of persecution in Jesus' name

*The Big Idea*

**The Gospel of Jesus Christ**

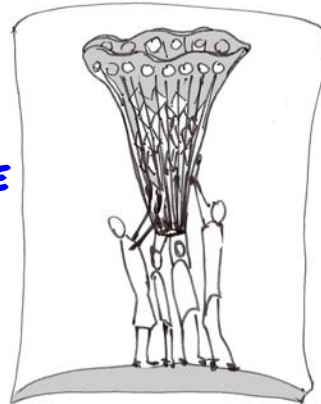
**is powerful and unstoppable**

**and we have the privilege, honor, and joy**

**of moving with Him**

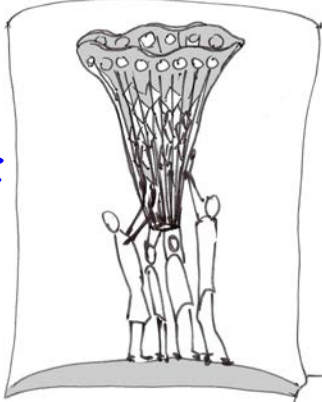
**even with persecution**

**HUMAN ENDEAVORS ARE FRAGILE**

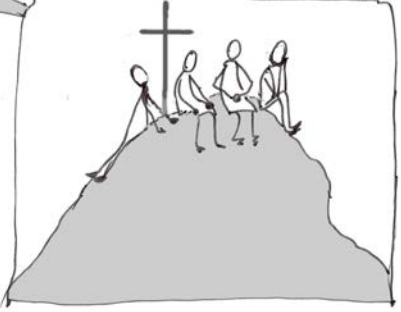




**HUMAN ENDEAVORS ARE FRAGILE**



**DIVINE ENDEAVORS ARE UNSTOPPABLE**  
→ WE DON'T HAVE TO PROTECT IT  
→ WE GET TO BE A PART OF IT



*The Big Idea*

**The Gospel of Jesus Christ**

**is powerful and unstoppable**

**and we have the privilege, honor, and joy**

**of moving with Him**

**even with persecution**

**NOT: "everything Christians do"**

### *Application*

- **Bold confidence**
  - **Believe in God’s power to bring life in Jesus**
    - God’s work is not fragile!
    - Even if there are problems, opposition, ...
    - In your life
    - In others’ lives
    - In the Church

### *Application*

- **Bold confidence**
  - Believe in God’s power to bring life in Jesus
  - **Tell people what is unique about Jesus!**
    - Is Jesus different from what people think?
      - Explain
    - Is Jesus doing something in your life?
      - Say so!
    - “You shall be my witnesses, to the ends of the earth”
    - The name of **Jesus** is the essential part of Christianity



### *Application*

- **Bold confidence**

- Believe in God’s power to bring life in Jesus
- Tell people what is unique about Jesus!
- **Rejoice even in persecution**
  - Being treated like Jesus is a sign that we are **with** Jesus
  - “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” *Matthew 5:11-12*

### *Application*

- **Bold confidence**

- Believe in God’s power to bring life in Jesus
- Tell people what is unique about Jesus!
- **Rejoice even in persecution**
  - Persecution cannot crush the church
  - Persecution tends to bring growth to the church

*The Big Idea*

**The Gospel of Jesus Christ  
is powerful and unstoppable  
and we have the privilege, honor, and joy  
of moving with Him  
even with persecution**

**HOW DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE WORK OF GOD?**

- **NOT FRAGILE**
- **UNSTOPPABLE!**

*The Big Idea*

**The Gospel of Jesus Christ  
is powerful and unstoppable  
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of moving with Him  
even with persecution**

**HAVE WE BEEN TIMID AND ASHAMED?**

- **GO AND TELL THE PEOPLE ALL ABOUT THIS NEW LIFE!**
- **REJOICE THAT WE GET TO BE A PART OF THE  
UNSTOPPABLE WORK OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD!**